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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXIV Number 5

MAY, 1934

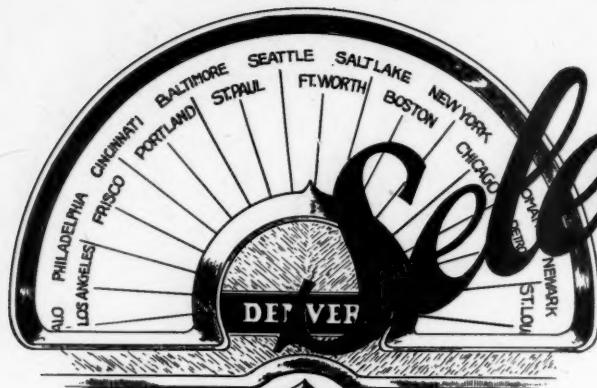
Maintaining Forage Production on the Range

Association Letter to
Secretary Wallace Con-
cerning His Ideas on
Wool Tariff

Report of Committee
on Wool Trade Code

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
Salt Lake City, Utah

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING
CORPORATION
Boston, Mass.



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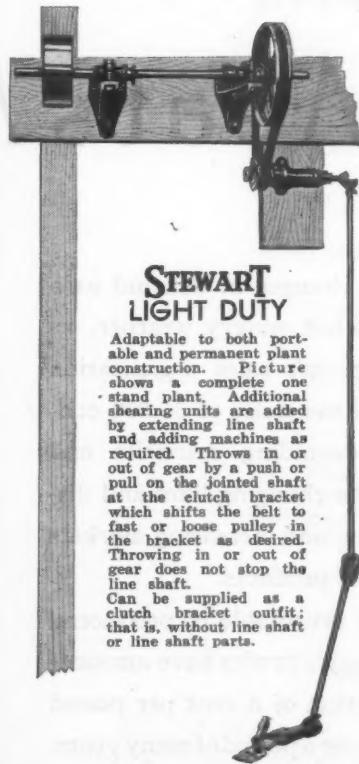
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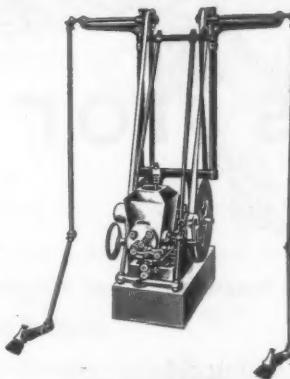
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281 SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

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Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs

Washington, D. C.
May 2, 1934

This page again is being written in Washington, D. C., where I may need to remain for some weeks. Vice Presidents Johns and Mayer are here, also J. B. Wilson of Wyoming.

After three weeks of Senate delay on the tariff bill, which passed the House on March 29, the President called for action. Hearings were opened before the **The Tariff Bill** Finance Committee on April 26 for testimony by members of the Cabinet and other departmental officers who are supporting the bill. Part of these hearings were in executive session and the testimony is not available. It is understood that the statements by Secretaries Wallace and Hull were much the same as those given in the House hearing on March 8, some of which was printed in the April issue of the *Wool Grower* (page 9).

On April 30 the hearings were opened for the testimony of those opposed to the bill and 72 persons asked for an opportunity to talk. Chairman Harrison of Mississippi made it very plain that the hearings were to be very brief and admonished each industry to condense its testimony and present it through a single witness. At the Democratic caucus on Monday night, April 30, Senator Harrison stated that the hearings would be closed on Tuesday and the bill favorably reported to the Senate on Thursday.

The wool growers were allowed one hour on Tuesday morning. I testified for 30 minutes and was followed by Messrs. Mayer, Johns, and Wilson. Judge Boggess of Texas and Mr. Studley, president of the National Wool Trade Association, followed, in opposition to the bill. The growers registered four principal objections:

1. Such a law would create serious and perpetual uncertainty in all business affected by the tariff and greatly retard industrial and agricultural recovery.

2. We said we felt sure that wool duties would be lowered if the bill became law. This, because of Secretary Wallace's announcements and his intimate relations with the President, who would have complete power. We showed that the statements of Mr. Wallace, together with the agitation for the proposed legislation, had completely stopped business in 1934 wools and that for such sales as have been made since this agitation started, the price is reduced by 25 per cent.

3. The proposed series of trade treaties between the United States and individual nations would not really be reciprocal. This country now has favored nation treaties with 48 countries. If any one of them was given a lower duty on the export of any

commodity to us, the same rate would also apply to all the countries, regardless of whether such other countries made any concessions to the United States.

The hearings were closed on Tuesday night and it seems certain that the bill will soon be placed on the Senate calendar. The President's insistence upon passage of the bill makes opposition by Administration Senators who are up for reelection practically impossible. However, protracted debate on the floor of the Senate is assured. Numerous amendments will be offered. It may be voted to provide that the President would not have authority to alter any duties on agricultural imports.

The letter from the National Wool Growers Association, addressed to Secretary Wallace on April 21, was included in the wool growers' testimony that will be printed in the official report of the hearings.

The Senate's public hearings on the Taylor public domain bill are to close tomorrow (May 3) and the subcommittee will prepare amendments to be printed

The Taylor Bill in a few days. It seems about certain that the bill will pass the Senate; at least Senators from states opposed to any such legislation consider that a bill will be passed; that if not, the lands will be withdrawn and administered without any provision of law to govern. That would be much more dangerous than any bill that has been discussed. I asked the committee to strengthen the bill to give greater assurance of preference to present users of the range, to allow no charges in the first five years and to give a flexible scale thereafter, and to give the western counties all of the fees collected except the amounts expended for improvements on the range.

One day last week the Senate Agricultural Committee held an executive session with Secretary Wallace and Mr. Tolley, head of the planning division of the Agricultural Adjustment Adminis-

A.A. Act Amendments tration. A new bill was reported to the Senate which would give the A. A. A. practically unlimited powers in the levying of compensatory taxes and in control over distributing industries. When the news got out, there was a real storm of protest. The committee quickly recalled its bill and agreed that no further action would be taken without first holding public hearings.

Stock Yards Bills The A. A. A. has not yet approved the stockyards code proposed by the American Stock Yards Association, the hearings on which I reported in the March Wool Grower. The Capper, Hope, and Wearin bills for amending the Packers and Stockyards Act still are in the Senate and House committees and are not likely to become law at this session. These bills, as advocated by some cooperative and old line livestock commission houses, were drawn in a way that would make a public stockyards of any railroad loading pen

in which any livestock changed hands. Passage of any of them undoubtedly would have meant that charges would be made on all livestock for which such pens were used for holding or loading, or else that not a single transaction could be made or completed by delivery in railroad loading pens.

Direct marketing of hogs by corn belt farmers would have been stopped and also any use of railroad scales or pens for delivering western sheep or cattle sold at home to any packer or dealer.

F. R. Marshall.

Association Letter to Secretary Wallace Concerning His Ideas on Wool Tariff

April 21, 1934

Honorable Henry A. Wallace
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In view of the public statements you have made regarding a national tariff policy, and considering your particular reference to the effect of that policy upon wool growers, I feel it reasonable to ask your consideration of the statements in this letter.

I am making these statements as a representative of a very considerable part of the wool-growing industry which is engaged in by 583,578 farmers and ranchmen in the United States. We are extremely concerned over the proposals coming from such a high officer of the government as yourself. We have been adversely affected already as a result of your suggestion that the wool-growing industry would be injured by the "radical reduction in tariffs" which you propose as a means of increasing imports in order "to sell abroad our normal surpluses of cotton, wheat, and tobacco at a decent price. * * * In other parts of "America Must Choose" you also mentioned pork and lard as one of the commodities for which you favor securing increased exports by lowering duties on imports of other commodities.

The testimony which you gave on March 8 before the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, as well as your statements in "America Must Choose," have received our most interested study. I now have before me also your letter of April 10 addressed to James G. Brown of Montrose, Colorado, who is a member of the executive committee of this association. In that letter you stated that you were not interested in "beating down wool prices."

Of course, we do not for a moment suppose that you would intentionally do or say anything that would have the effect of lowering the price of any agricultural commodity. Though it may be an unpleasant surprise to you, we feel that you nevertheless will be willing and anxious to have the facts regarding recent changes in the price of wool, and their apparent causes.

Your tariff proposals, including your specific reference to wool, as they appear in "America Must Choose," came to the attention of the wool trade early in March. The bill proposing to grant to the President the power to change import duties to the extent of 50 per cent was introduced in Congress on March 2. Then the testimony of yourself and Secretaries Hull and Roper was presented to the Ways and Means Committee on March 8.

Between March 3 and April 7 there was an average decline of 3 cents per scoured pound in the Boston prices on territory wools as quoted by the Commercial Bulletin of Boston. This happened in spite of the fact that the stocks of unmanufactured wool were the lowest in many years. Many of the mills were also carrying unfilled orders for future delivery. The fear of tariff action which would affect wool prices gave manufacturers real grounds for anticipating cancellations from those who had placed orders for goods. These cancellations are common in the trade when goods buyers see grounds for expecting lower wool prices.

What was still more striking and more directly injurious to wool growers was the change during March in the prices bid in producing sections. In the last of February and in the early part of March, representatives of manufacturers and dealers were making extensive purchases of 1934 wools in western states, at from 30 to 33 cents per grease pound. Then, when the threat of tariff legislation and the significance of your statements about wool growers had been appraised, buying operations were completely discontinued. Such scattering offers to buy as have been received by growers in recent weeks are on the basis of 10 cents per grease pound.

below the figures obtainable before this tariff agitation.

Certainly, the price of wool has been beaten down! Of course, the wool trade may have been unduly alarmed, but uneasiness has for long been the result of tariff discussions in Congress or by high administration officials. The effect upon the wool trade of your particular mention of injury to wool growers was especially marked in this instance because wool was the only one of the four commodities which you singled out that was being harvested and marketed at that time.

The prices of wool in America ordinarily correspond quite closely with those being paid in foreign markets. That the decline at Boston was due to tariff discussions at Washington is shown by the fact that during the same period, foreign prices were either strong or tending upward. I include below a few fairly selected excerpts from the Commercial Bulletin published at Boston, and which is the principal publication used by those engaged in the wool trade.

From the issue of March 10:

The tone of the market has not been too cheerful. Upheaval of the NRA Codes in a general revision as promised by General Johnson has not been conducive to confidence in the immediate future for a man with money to invest in the new clip. Expectation of tariff revision never makes for confidence and especially is this true in the wool trade.

From the issue of April 7:

Of course, the prospect of the passage of a bill which will give the President power to change the tariff bill at will to the extent of 50 per cent of the duty without any previous study of the problem by the Tariff Commission for the sake of inducing foreign trade by setting up reciprocal trade arrangements, is having its deterrent effect upon the market by creating uncertainty. Some think wool and wool goods will not be affected by the bill, while others are equally confident that they will be. In any event, the uncertainty is just another factor to hold up business. ***

Cable advances from the Trans-Atlantic market at the week end indicate a fairly steady market abroad as compared with a week ago with market factors in the European markets marking time.

From the issue of April 14:

The wool market drags along its sluggish way. For the time being, the fogs have obscured the pole star for the trade and everything is going by dead reckoning with the drift tending to throw the good ship Wool off her course more or less in spite of the strong statistical position of the raw material.

The news out of Washington is having a bad effect upon the business and all markets for the moment, even though in some respects the outlook appears a bit better.

There is an attitude of indecision noticeable throughout the trade with reference to the future. A new heavyweight season is about to begin, to be sure, but buyers are in no hurry to make large commitments in heavyweights as yet. The political phase of the situation appears to be largely the controlling factor. ***

The markets overseas were extremely firm in the sale in Dunedin on Tuesday. The wools offered were of fairly good character, although no super-wools were included in the offerings. Prices were rather better, however, than in the sale in Christ Church the preceding week.

In the West there has been little business done this week. The impasse between growers and dealers seems to be as wide as it was a week ago. Here and there some contracts have been made on the lower bases of prices noted a week ago, although the sales have been rather inconsequential.

From your testimony before the Ways and Means Committee, we believe that wool did not meet your standard of efficiency, since it ordinarily benefits materially from the duties collected upon imported supplies. It must, of course, be recognized that you apparently have already judged some agricultural commodities as to their efficiency, and that your mind is practically made up on this whole tariff question. However, in case you might wish at some time to review your position, in respect to wool at least, we place before you these facts:

(1) Recent prices of wool and lambs, both of which benefit from tariff protection, have been above the parity of prices of 1909-14, as set forth in the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

(2) A considerable proportion of wool and lamb producers secured some profit from their 1933 marketings. Until the opening of the situation which this letter is intended to discuss, prospects were that

worth-while profits would be the general rule among sheep owners in 1934, and that interest payments and some debt reductions would be possible. It is on account of the above facts that the sheep industry has not yet asked any assistance from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

(3) The wool and lamb-producing industry is at least as efficiently conducted as any other branch of American agriculture. The business does not have the peculiar advantages of climate and cheap land and labor that are found in some wool exporting countries. However, students familiar with the agriculture of the different sections in the United States consider that on the types of lands and under the conditions in which sheep are principally kept, the business is peculiarly adaptable and beneficial to those areas.

(4) Another point peculiar to the sheep industry and which marks its efficiency is that there is never any carry-over of production from one season to another. It is the inevitable and necessary custom of sheep raisers to market their wool soon after shearing, and to sell all of the lambs not needed for breeding purposes considerably before they reach one year of age. As a result, there is no surplus carried from one year to another, and while the market may have a comparative oversupply in one season, that supply is disposed of and the situation is cleared for the marketing of the next year's production. Further suggestion as to the efficiency of the sheep industry can be found in the fact that under the guidance of banks and government loan agencies, large areas of grazing lands in Texas, Colorado, and other states have been transferred from cattle production to sheep raising.

We cannot agree that it is necessary for America to choose between free trade internationalism and economic self-sufficiency as suggested in your writings, nor even that such a compromise as you suggest for facilitating exports of cotton, wheat, and

hog products, is necessary. Some possibilities of reorganization of American agriculture for adjustment to present and prospective conditions are outlined in an editorial, a copy of which is enclosed, which appeared in the April issue of the National Wool Grower, which is the official organ of this association.

For the information of wool growers, we also printed in the same issue a considerable part of your testimony before the Ways and Means Committee.

In your testimony before the Ways and Means Committee, as reported on page 55, you stated that you "would hold onto all the agricultural tariffs I could get." Lower down on the same page of the report, you refer to gradual reduction of tariffs and mention the Act of 1833 providing for the reduction of 10 per cent a year. The meaning of the latter part of the paragraph referred to is not very clear, but I assume you had reference to the proposal in H. R. 8430 for conferring upon the President the power to adjust import duties. This, taken in conjunction with your reference to wool in "America Must Choose," and also with your reply to Chairman Doughton, as appearing on page 46 of the report of the hearings, we think can fairly be considered as showing your readiness to recommend to the President a reduction in wool duties of somewhere between 10 and 50 per cent.

May we also ask your further weighing of the matter of military preparedness as you refer to it in "America Must Choose," and that you consider the position of the United States in the event of war with a much greater dependence upon foreign supplies of wool and manufactures of wool?

We are inclined to think that the wool trade has perhaps overdiscounted the effect upon the market of what you would advise the President to do when he has the power to fix duties.

Perhaps the action you favor would not be so radical as has been supposed from your general plan and

your incidental references to wool. We venture to suggest that you publish a clarifying and more definite statement of what agricultural duties you would favor lowering now through the presidential power.

We must, of course, fear and expect that you will list the wool men among those friends whom you referred to as likely to "howl continuously to high heaven." We still hope you may tell us our howling is misdirected and that we really are not among those to whom you would give cause to complain about the effects of your policy.

Yours very truly,
F. R. Marshall,
Secretary.

Ocean Freight Rates on Wool

AN announcement recently made by the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company shows the following charges now being applied to wool forwarded to Boston and other Atlantic Coast points from Seattle, Portland, Tacoma, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. The figures for marine insurance as shown were based on wool valued at 10 cents per pound and should be increased in proportion to the value set this year by ocean shippers.

VIA SEATTLE, WN. OR PORTLAND, ORE.

	Per 100-Lb.
Cost of unloading cars	\$.03 3/4
Wharfage charge	.03
Ocean freight rate from Pacific Coast to Atlantic Coast terminal port	1.00
Additional charge	.03
Marine insurance	.03 1/4
TOTAL	\$1.13 1/4

VIA TACOMA, WN.

Cost of unloading cars	\$.02 1/2
Wharfage charge	.02 1/2
Ocean freight rate from Pacific Coast to Atlantic Coast terminal port	1.00
Additional charge	.03
Marine insurance	.03 1/2
TOTAL	\$1.11 1/2

VIA SAN FRANCISCO, OAKLAND OR ALAMEDA, CAL.

Cost of unloading cars	\$.02
Toll charge	.00 3/4
Ocean freight rate from Pacific Coast to Atlantic Coast terminal port	1.00
Additional charge	.03
Marine insurance	.03 1/4

TOTAL \$1.09

VIA LOS ANGELES HARBOR (WILMINGTN), CAL.

Cost of unloading cars	\$.01 1/2
Los Angeles Harbor handling charge	.01 1/2
Los Angeles wharfage charge	.00 3/4
Ocean freight rate from Pacific Coast to Atlantic Coast terminal port	1.00
Additional charge	.03
Marine insurance	.03 1/4

TOTAL \$1.10

In 1933 some railroads reduced their freight rates on wool shipped to Pacific Coast points. Total charges from railroad loading points in Nevada to Boston, vary from \$1.57 per hundred at Anderson or Reno, to \$1.96 at Winnemucca and \$2.53 at Eureka.

In Utah the combined rates are \$1.75 from Lund and Cedar City; \$1.80 from Jericho, \$1.90 from North Salt Lake, Ogden, or Spanish Fork.

Combined rates from Oregon points vary from \$1.35 at Salem, \$1.52 at The Dalles, \$1.66 at Klamath Falls, to \$1.96 at Lakeview, and \$1.73 at Pendleton.

The lowest rate in Idaho is \$1.82, applying from Bliss, Caldwell, Emmett, and Nampa; \$1.96 is the rate from Glenns Ferry and nearby points. At Pocatello the rate rises to \$2.25.

Rates from California points are as low as \$1.36 at Marysville, \$1.48 at Bakersfield, and \$1.88 at Perez.

The points at which the combination of westbound rail rates with the ocean rates runs about the same as eastbound rail rates are: Fortine and Dixon, Montana; American Falls, Idaho; Montello, Nevada; Seligman, Arizona; and in Utah, Knolls, Salt Lake, and Provo.

Report of Committee on Wool Trade Code

A COMMITTEE of the National Wool Growers Association to follow up the report on wool marketing as adopted by the association at the last convention was appointed by President Ellenwood, as called for by the action of the convention.

The committee consisted of: J. B. Wilson, Wyoming; W. P. Wing, California; and J. A. Hooper, Utah.

The report of the committee's activities and of some of the discussion caused thereby has been submitted to the association and reads as follows:

Washington, D. C.
May 4, 1934.

Gentlemen:

We, your committee, appointed on the wool trade code, beg leave to report as follows:

Mr. Marshall, your secretary, was in Boston and Washington in February and March, and while there suggested to the officials of the National Wool Trade Association that it might be advisable to hold a meeting with our committee before their association submitted the code of fair practice to the N. R. A. As a result of this suggestion our committee was invited by officers of the National Wool Trade Association to meet with a committee from their association to discuss the wool trade code at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill. on March 19.

Members of our committee were Mr. James A. Hooper, secretary of the Utah Wool Growers Association, Mr. W. P. Wing, secretary of the California Wool Growers Association, J. B. Wilson, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, and in Chicago our committee was joined by Mr. F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, who took part in the discussion regarding the code.

The committee representing the wool trade association were Durham Jones, Claud Ketcham, C. J. Fawcett and Joseph Draper, all of Boston, and Loren Tryon of San Francisco. Mr. E. S. Haskell of Washington, D. C., sat in the conference as an observer for the A. A. A.

The wool trade association, which I will hereafter refer to as the dealers, submitted to us a draft of their proposed code of fair practice. This proposed code, of course, was drawn by dealers for the protection of dealers and was not drawn with the idea of protecting the growers' interests, but there were a number of provisions in the code in which the grower was concerned.

After a full discussion of the proposed code, our committee was in agreement with

the dealers' representatives as to many provisions of the code. We then submitted to the dealers' committee the report of the Committee on Wool Marketing adopted by the National Wool Growers Association at its convention in Salt Lake City, on January 18, which report was published in the National Wool Grower and with which your members are familiar. We found that the program of the National Wool Growers Association was in substantial agreement with the proposed code of fair practice, with three very important exceptions.

The wool dealers propose standard discounts for dead wool, fine and grade buck wool, tags and black, providing different discounts for Texas and California and the territory states.

Our committee could not agree to these discounts, feeling that the wool should be purchased on its merits, and there should not be any discount for tags, black wool, etc. These matters are all taken into consideration when the dealer purchases the wool and we feel that there should be no discount.

The next point of disagreement was on the question of commissions. In the proposed code the dealers propose that the commission for selling wool on consignment in original bags should be not less than 2 cents per pound, and not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound if graded. After some discussion the dealers agreed to strike out "not less than" so that the commission would be 2 cents per pound on original bag wools and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound on graded wools. The growers' committee, however, were not satisfied with this, feeling that the rate of commission was too high, and suggested that the commission for selling wool on consignment should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound for original bag wool and 2 cents for graded.

Our committee asked that the following section be inserted in the code:

"No company, organization, partnership or person, shall be permitted to take wool on consignment or sell wool of any producer or organization on a consignment basis if said company, organization or individual buys wool for its own account or is in any way interested in wools bought for resale."

This provision brought out as much discussion as the provision regarding selling charges. The two committees were unable to reach an agreement on these three important points and decided to leave them to the N. R. A. for adjustment when hearings were held. These hearings were to be held by the N. R. A. during the latter part of March, but we were advised that the dealers were having some difficulty in arriving at an agreement with some of the handlers of carpet wools, so they asked for and secured an indefinite extension for the filing of their proposed code with the N. R. A.

As this is written no definite date has been fixed for the filing of the code and after the code is filed public hearings will then be held.

It speedily became apparent that the proposal of our committee which would prevent houses speculating in wool for their own account, handling wool on consignment, was very unpopular with the dealers. Their representatives interviewed growers and had growers send protests to Washington and to their state and national associations regarding this provision of the proposed code. This is a question which has been discussed at wool growers' meetings for many years. Your committee is of the opinion that when the growers understand the situation they will endorse the stand of your committee.

The objections to this provision being made by the dealers' representatives in the West are far greater than were the objections of the dealers' committee. Their committee made some objections but based most of their objections on the fact that it would interfere with the rulings of the wool advisory committee of the Farm Credit Administration relative to handling the 1934 clip. None of the dealers' representatives in attendance suggested that the dealers would cease buying wool as has been stated by their representatives in the West, and some of them did not seriously object to this provision being in the code if it were not effective until after the 1934 season.

Judging by the number of complaints received by the members of your committee, the growers apparently have the idea that this is the only provision in the proposed code which affects them. In discussing the differences between the growers' committee and the wool trade committee, one of the dealers' representatives in the West said recently that agreement could probably be reached on the other controversial points if this particular provision were eliminated.

We believe, in order that the matter may be discussed thoroughly and frankly, that the representatives of the dealers should make a full, frank and fair statement as to their objections to this provision in the code, and they should at the same time state whether or not they will handle consigned wools for the growers for a commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound on original bag wools.

The question of charges is also at issue and we would welcome a statement from representatives of the wool trade, advising that they would be agreeable to eliminating the provision regarding discounts from the code and would reduce their commission charges to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound on original bag wools. If the dealers would do this our committee would be glad to negotiate with them further regarding the clause to which they object so vigorously.

Your committee appreciates the solicitude on the part of the dealers for the welfare of the wool growers and respectfully suggests that this solicitude be expressed in terms of

reduced charges and the elimination of the discount clauses proposed in the code. Inasmuch as it was stated that one of the dealers made $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per pound net on the handling of consigned wools, it would seem that a reduction could be made without serious harm to the dealers.

Your committee is both desirous and anxious to secure the opinion of as many growers as possible on these proposals for inclusion in the code of fair practice for the wool trade.

Yours very truly,
J. B. WILSON, *Chairman*
J. A. HOOPER
W. P. WING

Mr. Wilson makes the following further comment on the situation:

One suggestion has recently been made to me which I have not yet brought to the attention of our committee. The suggestion is that in any code of fair practice adopted, a provision should be inserted providing that the dealers' profit on any wool purchased by them should be limited to not more than 2 cents per pound above the amount they pay the producer for the wool, plus freight charges to Boston. This provision might also include a prohibition against selling wool at less than a certain price. This suggestion was only made recently, and I am now taking the matter up with our full committee, and if they approve, we will take the matter up with the proper officials of the N. R. A. and the A. A. A. to try and have this provision included in the code.

Commission Rates at Chicago

THE February issue (page 7) of the National Wool Grower reviewed the decision of Secretary Wallace which ordered reductions of about 25 per cent in the charges for selling sheep at the Chicago market. On April 20 the Farmers Union Livestock Commission and the Chicago Producers Commission Association put the new schedule of rates into effect. All the other commission firms involved took the matter to court and secured a temporary restraining order, which will keep the matter tied up for some time. However, in granting this injunction, the court ruled that the difference between the old and new rates would be held out and returned to the growers if the case is decided in favor of the government.

Will the Allotment Plan Work?

THERE has been so much discussion about controlling production of agricultural and livestock products that some of the proposed schemes are worth analyzing.

At present the National Administration is enthusiastically practicing the allotment plan. This scheme was brought forward as a substitute for the equalization fee plan and later as a substitute for the export debenture. Most of the people now so energetic for the allotment plan were just as active for the other two plans.

The allotment plan provides for reducing production by allotting to each producer a certain percentage of his land to be held out of production. This plan is now being applied to wheat, corn, hogs, and cotton production, and under the law may be applied to several other products including cattle and dairy products. The theory behind the allotment plan is that by reducing production in this manner, the prices of agricultural products will be so raised that the farmer will be placed on a parity with industrial producers. At the present time the farmer's dollar is supposed to be worth about 70 cents—that is, as compared with what it used to buy. At the same time the industrial dollar is worth somewhere over 100 cents. The idea is to so raise the price of the farmer's bushel of wheat that it will buy as many industrial products as it did before the war. This is where the parity comes in.

Speaking broadly those who favor the allotment plan believe that by reducing agricultural production about 25 per cent, the farmer's income would be so increased that he would be enabled to pay his debts and that his dollar would relatively have the same value as the dollar of the laboring man or manufacturer.

This is a fine theory, but it fails to take into account the result on industrial production that the reduction in farm buying power would

have. If farmers are to produce 25 per cent less, then it follows that they will buy 25 per cent less of most things. If the wheat man cut his acreage 25 per cent, he will need less farm machinery, drills, gasoline, overalls, shoes, oil, harrows, seeders, plows, tractors, and most important, less labor. What applies to wheat applies to every other commodity that is reduced. What is to become of the 25 per cent of labor that the farmer releases. It is answered that they may go to the cities and become industrial workers. This will not be possible for having reduced the farmer's needs for industrial products by 25 per cent, many of the factories producing farm supplies will have to lay off 25 per cent of the men they already have, plus the 25 per cent the farmer has no further need for.

Supposedly the farmer has increased his income per bushel for what he has to sell—that is only true in the event that the market for his products has remained as large as before he made the reduction. The man discharged from the factory because the farmer has reduced his buying needs 25 per cent ceases to be a customer of the farmer. Therefore, by reducing his business 25 per cent, the farmer has reduced his customer's buying power 25 per cent. Is he any better off than he was before he made this reduction? This is illustrated by something that occurred the other day. A farmer wanting to borrow a drill applied to another farmer who he knew had intended buying one. But the farmer replied: "No, I did not buy a new drill this year because I signed up part of my wheat land and the old drill will do for what is left." The result is that every man concerned in the manufacture and sale of a new grain drill, from the miner that mines the iron ore to the banker who loans money to the farmer with which to buy the drill, has been injured or has lost trade. Multiply this by millions of articles and the business of the country has been seriously injured.

S. W. McClure.

Forest Service Issues New Regulation on Game

A NEW regulation pertaining to game animals in national forests was issued on March 29, by Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace.

In a press release based on the new regulation, and entitled "Government Takes Forward Step in Game Management," the Regional Forester at Portland, Ore., said:

Because of President Roosevelt's keen interest in game and wild life conservation, which finds formal expression in the recently issued report of his Committee on Wild Life Restoration, the Forest Service has been instructed to give more attention in the future to wild life matters, and to take a much more prominent part in the conservation of the nation's wild life resources.

A new regulation has just been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture which is designed to enable the government to coordinate the wild life crop with other essential uses of public lands, and to manage this crop on a sustained production basis. It aims to enable the federal government to contribute more largely and directly to regulation in specific cases involving lands in government ownership which have not in the past contributed satisfactorily to the production of wild life as one of the forest crops.

This new regulation covers the administration of all game matters on the national forests. In addition to providing summer range for most of the big game animals of this region, and many of the fishing streams, we are very much interested in the creation and administration of federal migratory bird refuges. Our interest also extends to game and non-game birds, and non-game animals. However, no present action is contemplated to conflict with state game control in this region. There will, of course, be an ultimate need for correlation of game and wild life on the national forests with the other forest values such as watershed protection, recreation, timber cutting, grazing by domestic animals, and forest fire control. Our whole aim will be to make the national forests produce their maximum of value to the public. In most instances, it is believed that these matters can be worked out in cooperation with the state game administrations.

The following statement, which contains the new game regulation was issued from the Washington, D. C. office of the Forest Service:

The national forests contain 162,009,145 acres of public land. They furnish the principal part of the range required by the big game animals of the West and a small part of the requirements for wild life in other regions. That all land should be devoted to its most productive use is a principle which has guided Forest Service policy for 29 years. This principle has been applied to range primarily adapted to wild life and land use plans developed accordingly. That its application has proved sound is indicated by the large increase in big game animals on the national forests during the past 10-year period. That there is still room for much improvement is indicated by numerous areas supporting only a relatively small proportion of the wild life the areas are capable of supporting, and by the other large areas where the population of wild life is in excess of the carrying capacity of the land.

To overcome these conditions the wild life crop must be coordinated with other essential uses and managed on a sustained production basis. To do that, regulations must be developed and applied which recognize the problems involved on each area or stream. With a view to the federal government contributing more largely and directly to such regulation in specific cases involving lands in government ownership which have not in the past contributed satisfactorily to the production of wild life, and in furtherance of cooperative efforts, the following regulation has been promulgated:

WHEREAS, wild life is one of the major resources of the national forest land and water, and its management and development are an essential part of the administration of the national forests; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of overgrazing and erosion and the protection of watersheds, timber, and other resources are dependent upon the regulation of wild life population to the carrying capacity of the land or water, and such regulation is also essential to maintain the productivity of such land and water for wild life; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of wild life population by hunting and fishing is the most

effective means of limiting the population to the carrying capacity of the range or water and of disposing of any excessive numbers; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of hunting and fishing on the national forests is effective in reducing the fire hazard and in promoting the conservation, development, and proper utilization of national forest resources; and

WHEREAS, plans for the development of the wild life resource, including the regulation of hunting and fishing, should be closely harmonized with the plans and objectives for the management of other national forest resources to insure the maximum public benefits:

Now THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture, by the Act of Congress of February 1, 1905 (33 Stat. 628, amendatory of the Act of June 4, 1897 30 Stat. 11) I, H. A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby make and publish the following regulations for the occupancy, use, protection, and administration of the national forests:

REG. G-20 A. When the Secretary shall determine upon consideration of data and recommendations of the Forester that the regulation or the prohibition for a specified period of hunting and fishing upon any national forest or portion thereof is necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes above set forth, he shall designate such national forest or portion thereof, establish hunting and fishing seasons therefor, fix bag and creel limits, specify the sex of animals to be killed, fix the fees to be paid for permits, designate the authorized official to whom application for permit shall be made, and describe the terms and conditions under which hunting and fishing shall be conducted with a view of carrying out the purpose of this regulation. Public notice of such designation shall be given by such means as the Forester shall deem adequate for the purpose. Carcasses of animals or fish taken under permit shall be marked or tagged for identification as directed by the Forester.

REG. T-8½. Upon national forest lands designated under Reg. G-20 A the following acts are prohibited:

Hunting, trapping, catching, disturbing or killing any kind of game or non-game animal, or game or non-game bird, or taking the eggs of any such bird, except during hunting and fishing seasons established by the Secretary, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued by a duly authorized officer which is valid and subsisting at the time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, this 29th day of March, 1934.

(Signed) H. A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture.

CALENDAR

Far Western Ram Sale, Sacramento, Calif.—May 23-24

Arizona Wool Growers Convention, Flagstaff—July 10-11

National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City—September 11-12

American National Live Stock Convention, Rapid City, S. D.—January 9-11, 1935

Report of the President's Committee on Wild-Life Restoration

THE President's Committee on Wild-Life Restoration submitted its report to the President on February 8 and printed copies are now available from the Superintendent of Documents at Washington at 10 cents a copy.

The plan proposed by the three men composing the committee (Thomas H. Beck, chairman, Jay N. Darling and Aldo Leopold) calls for the acquisition of:

1. Four million acres potentially or actually suitable for migratory waterfowl and shore-bird breeding and nesting grounds.

2. Five million acres of submarginal land suitable for development and management as upland game areas. (Recommended that this area be increased to ten million acres as soon as suitable land can be found.)

3. One million acres known to be used as breeding and nesting places and rookeries for such species of song, insectivorous, ornamental, and nongame birds as are becoming scarce.

4. Two million acres needed for the restoration of big game, fur bearers, and other valuable mammals.

Confidential lists of lands for the first two projects were submitted to the President with the report.

While interested in the entire program, stockmen will be most concerned with that part of it dealing with the restoration of big game and fur-bearing animals. The report, in this connection, reads as follows:

Outlying farms or ranches of a submarginal character may interfere with wild-life restoration in many ways. The retirement of such holdings will frequently involve the purchase of not more than 160 to 640 acres of privately owned land on which the ranch is located, but will free thousands of acres of overgrazed public lands which surround it, and can accomplish the dual purpose of shrinking commercial livestock or farming and expanding wild life, and, incidentally, in many cases, stopping erosion and depletion of the range.

The most common and important (obnoxious) type of interference occurs where an outlying ranch controls the grazing privilege to the surrounding range vitally needed by the large or rare big-game mammals and prevents the exclusion of livestock from such range.

The selection and purchase of such properties can usually be performed through the

administrative agency managing game on the surrounding range. Most of such lands will be in the national forests, national parks, Indian reservations, on the federal public domain, or in some state refuge, forest, or park, so that no expense for administration or maintenance is involved.

The federal wild-life director should cooperate with the agency concerned to buy such lands.

Less commonly, the outlying ranch will be on private or unregulated public range. The action if any, must be suited to the circumstances.

Types of land to be submitted for consideration:

A grazing ranch headquarters situated on public domain where the grazing permit has already been reduced to a minimum, but where grazing still interferes with some valuable big-game herd, such as mountain sheep, antelope, or elk.

A grazing ranch headquarters located on a bear range, where bear commit occasional depredations and have in the past been subjected to trapping or poisoning, but where the real remedy is to buy the ranch and let the bears have the range.

Outlying farm properties serving as a base for poachers, market hunters, or other illegal damage to valuable game herds.

An outlying farm now a source of damage claims by reason of beaver colonies, elk herds, or other mammals using nearby range. To retire the farm is good agriculture, good economy, and good conservation.

An outlying sheep ranch liable to transmit scabies to mountain sheep.

Outlying ranches which, by fencing or diversion of natural waters, could be retired to the advantage of wild life.

The wild-life restoration program as submitted by the committee would be placed in the hands of a restoration commissioner, who would serve under the direction of a committee composed of the secretaries of agriculture, interior and commerce. Heads for each of the four divisions of wild life, with the necessary field force, are also suggested. There would also be established on the lands acquired subsistence homes, with farmers (previous owners in most cases, it is indicated) acting as caretakers under the supervision of trained men.

To do a "good job" the costs of the wild-life program are estimated in the report as follows:

Emergency fund for surveys, examination, etc., of projects (source C.W.A.) \$ 430,910

Land to be withdrawn from commercial agriculture and used for wild-life restoration

(source F.S.R. C.)	25,000,000
Restoration of land (sources P.W.A. and C.W.A.)	25,000,000
	\$50,430,910

For a partial job, the total expenses are estimated at \$36,430,910, and for a minimum job, \$24,430,910.

In addition to these sums there would also be required for the first year a maintenance fund out of the C. W. A., C. C. C., and subsistence homes. After the first year the expense of maintenance would be met by revenue from these sources:

Duck stamp proceeds	\$ 700,000
Migratory Bird Conservation	
Act appropriations	300,000
Ammunition tax	2,500,000
Game and fur cropping (not estimated)	??

Total annual revenue \$3,500,000

Attached to the committee's report as Exhibit B is a memorandum of agreement on wild-life restoration signed by representatives of 47 organizations, which was presented to the President on January 25.

English Hampshires to Idaho

MR. L. L. Breckenridge of Idaho, who is now in England, has recently visited some of the principal Hampshire Down flocks with Mr. Harry B. Brown, and purchased two shearling ewes and a couple of shearling rams for shipment to his farm, 2,400 miles from New York, and an easy journey to Salt Lake City. These were all secured from Major V. S. Bland's prize winning flock at Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire; the two ewes being out of the pen of three that won first prize and reserve champion at the Royal Show Derby, first and champion at the Bath and West, and first at the Oxfordshire last season. The rams were in the first and champion pen at the Derby Royal and first at the Bath and West, one of them also being in the champion pen of eight at Salisbury Fair, 1933.

Harry B. Brown.
Sentinel House,
Southampton Row, London.

Around the Range Country

THE notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of April.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

Vegetation, both native forage and field crops generally, is far ahead of the usual development, the advancement probably being the greatest of many years. Range grasses have partially sustained livestock during the entire month of April. Moisture, however, has not only been decidedly deficient, but warm, windy weather has increased the need for moisture, hence rains are much needed everywhere. Nothing is suffering greatly, however, and livestock are doing fairly well everywhere.

MONTANA

Four weeks of drouth have persisted over the eastern portion, and the middle and western areas have not had an abundance of moisture, some areas being in need of rain, especially the lower country east of the Divide. Pasture grass and range forage are growing slowly or not at all over much of the state for the want of moisture, this being one of the driest Aprils of record for the state as a whole. The higher country farther west is affording better pasture, though also in need of rain. In these areas livestock have shown some improvement. Lambing and shearing have progressed favorably, where started.

Browning

At this time, early April, conditions are good here. The grass is getting a good start with plenty of moisture and the spring range is very good, due to several snows that have soaked in.

No lambing has been done yet, but about the same number of ewes are to be lambed as a year ago. Winter losses in ewes were light, only about 3 per cent.

Shearing has not been started yet. Most of the sheepmen will consign their wool unless prices advance materially. No wool has been sold yet.

There are a lot more coyotes this year; since fur prices have been low, coyotes have not been hunted.

Lease rates on privately owned grazing lands are 15 cents this year; last year they were 10 cents.

Hagerty Brothers.

Sidney

It has been windy and dry here during April. No spring rains yet (May 3). The grass has been slow to start and is now rather short, and unless we get some rains, the summer range will be none too good.

The lamb crop is fully equal to that of a year ago. No wool sales are being made; advances on consignments are \$1.00 a head. Little or no machine shearing is done here; but blade men get 11 cents.

Lease rates on state grazing lands have been reduced one half and railroad lands are down 10 to 20 per cent, but there has been reduction in the rates for privately owned lands. There is no real effort to control coyotes, the government trappers have been removed, and local trappers do not try to destroy the

A MEANER JOB THAN IT LOOKS



Pulling threads from the seam to open a wool sack for display in the sales room.

This job can be done much better and more easily if the sack is turned before packing at the shearing shed, bringing the edges of the seam on the outside. Having the seam on the outside also means that fewer pieces of string will get mixed up with the wool to be picked out by highly paid men in the finishing room—because cotton string takes on a different shade than wool in the dyeing process.

bitches. The sheepmen are so scattered that it is difficult to secure proper cooperation among them for this work.

Hans Halvorsen.

IDAHO

Temperatures were somewhat above normal for the month as a whole, the season being appreciably ahead of normal. Moisture has been deficient, notably so in the major southern portion of the state. Pastures and ranges are fair over the panhandle, but rain would be a great help. The previously drouthy condition of the country was appreciably relieved, though temporarily, by showers about the first of May, pastures being improved locally already.

WASHINGTON

Abnormally warm weather prevailed, with plenty of moisture as a rule. This has forced ranges and pastures ahead nicely, affording plenty of feed for livestock. Generally livestock are consequently doing well. Some lighter lands of the central valleys need rain, but most of the state has had enough for immediate needs. The season is a month ahead of normal in much of the state. Shearing has been under way some weeks, and sheep are entering mountain areas.

Wishram

Grass was three weeks earlier than usual on the spring range, but the warm east wind is drying it up fast. The same is also true of the summer range. The feed there will be good, but will dry early.

From 25 to 29 cents has been paid since April 15 for this year's wool. I have not heard what advances are being made on wools shipped on consignment.

Where machine shearers furnish their own equipment, they have been paid 14 cents per head with board.

Not enough trappers have been on the job, so coyotes have increased materially.

J. A. Jaekel.

Prosser

The first three weeks of April found feed gradually drying up, but the last week has brought rain and freshened feed up considerably. Spring range feed came early and was therefore quickly drying up before these last rains. Forage on the summer ranges is also coming early this year and to those who are allowed on their summer ranges early should come an opportunity for an early matured lamb for market this summer. Lambing results averaged about the same as last year.

Have no record of any sales of wool since the middle of April. Some lamb wool was contracted at 30 cents; another outfit contracted very ordinary wool at 25 cents, with \$1 a head advance. Otherwise, wool has been quiet. Blade men got 11 cents a head for shearing.

Two years ago a 50 per cent reduction was made in cost of state grazing leases; now the rate is figured pro rata on lamb market prices. Throughout Benton County the lease rates for railroad lands are the same as ever, and in the majority of cases, the charges for leasing private lands are based on those for other lands in their neighborhood.

Coyotes are probably a little less troublesome than formerly, although there is still too much loss from them. The improvement in the situation can be found in the fact that the government men go after the dens, while private trappers care only for the older coyotes.

Clell Lung.

OREGON

Moderately warm weather prevailed much of the time, but there were also some frosty nights. While livestock water and soil moisture generally are becoming quite scarce over middle and eastern grazing sec-

tions, certain western areas have had beneficial showers, spoiling some first cutting of alfalfa hay. In these latter areas pastures are in good condition. Some shearing was delayed by rain late in the month. Generally livestock are in good condition.

Pendleton

We have had excellent weather and feed conditions this spring and the spring range forage is the best in years.

A few more ewes are being lambed this spring than a year ago and the lambs saved so far per hundred ewes outnumber those of 1933 by 10 per cent.

Shearing is being done at 10 cents per head with board for machine shearers; blade men are also getting 10 cents. I think growers would sell their wool rather than consign it this year if prices were right.

The Taylor bill seems to meet the approval of sheepmen in this section, but they would like it amended to place the control with the Forest Service.

Coyotes are on the increase due to the lack of funds in the Biological Survey.

While sheepmen's operating costs went down about 20 per cent, they are now going back up again. Owners of grazing lands have increased their lease rates from 10 to 20 per cent.

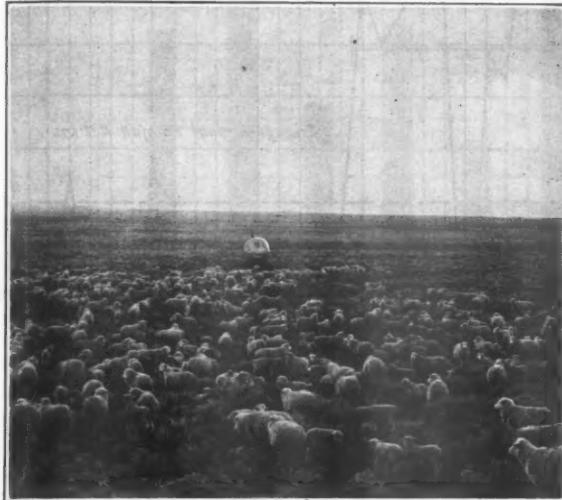
Cunningham Sheep Co.

CALIFORNIA

Abnormally warm weather forced the growth of crops and vegetation generally where watered, or on the moister soils, but much of the state became rather badly burned when local showers over the northern portion during the last week improved range and pasture conditions locally. A little alfalfa hay was damaged by the rain, but its benefits were greater

(Continued to page 33)

Maintaining Forage Production on the Range



A scene on the range at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station near Dubois, Idaho. Sagebrush, which is little grazed on spring-fall range, is the dominant vegetation. The understory of grasses and weeds furnish the bulk of the sheep feed.

THE forage produced on grazing lands is the foundation of range livestock production. The sheep industry of the western United States had its inception on virgin grazing lands, rich in forage resources. Many conditions, including economic factors, type of sheep and methods of operation have changed materially since pioneer days, but an adequate supply of range forage throughout the grazing season is still essential for economical range sheep production.

The lack of maintenance of forage production on grazing lands tends to intensify the difficulties in range livestock production which arise out of adverse economic conditions, obtaining credit, payment of taxes, and livestock diseases, etc. There was a time, perhaps, in the pioneering stages when some over-exploitation of the range resources was justified in order for the industry to become established, but this is no longer the case. Grazing is now definitely recognized as being the chief agricultural use of 80 per cent or more of the land area in the western states. Both the public in general, and the livestock industry in particular, are interested in hav-

ing so large a portion of the land area operated on a sustained yield basis in order that this vast resource will contribute its proper share to the general welfare of this western country.

The U. S. Sheep Experiment Station

The U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, situated on the edge of the Snake River Plains, near Dubois, Idaho, is one of several localities in the West where range studies are being conducted to aid in the development of grazing practices that will improve and maintain forage production on range lands. For the past ten years the Research Branch of the Forest Service and the Animal Husbandry Division of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry have been co-operating in carrying on grazing investigations at that station.¹

This experimental range is fairly representative of the Snake River Plains and adjacent foothills except that the experimental range potentially is a little poorer in quality in



A view of the vegetation in one of the conservatively grazed paddocks. The grasses, weeds, and minor shrubs which furnish the bulk of the forage, crop on the range may be maintained by carefully regulated spring use.

comparison to the former average condition over the Snake River Plains and adjacent foothills. The vegetation is characterized by sagebrush with an admixture of various other shrubs, bunchgrass, and weeds. This class of range is ordinarily used for approximately two months in the spring before the sheep are taken to the summer range and for approximately two to three months in the fall from the time the sheep are

¹The grazing investigations are conducted under a cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Animal Industry. The Forest Service is primarily responsible for the grazing and plant study phases of the program and the Bureau of Animal Industry is primarily responsible for the more purely animal husbandry phases. The Bureau of Animal Industry, in addition to handling the sheep, has rendered valuable assistance in conducting the grazing studies. The writer is greatly indebted to W. A. Denecke, who was Superintendent of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station from 1923 to 1931, and to J. M. Cooper, who has been the Superintendent since 1931, for their interest and assistance in carrying on the studies.

removed from the summer range until they are taken to the winter range or feeding grounds.

The experiments have been conducted on a practical basis and not under "hothouse" or "pampered" conditions. The government sheep are turned onto the range the latter part of April each year, which is as early as there is sufficient feed to warrant grazing, and are grazed there until the latter part of June, and then again in the fall from the latter part of September until the early part of December unless snow necessitates earlier removal of the sheep. In general the sheep are handled much the same as the average sheep outfit in that locality except perhaps that lambing is a little earlier, requiring access to lambing sheds when needed. Some of the more intensive studies are being conducted in a number of sheep pastures or paddocks, each 80 acres in area, where the detailed control of grazing necessary for many of the tests, may be obtained.

Influence of Yearly Fluctuations in Rainfall

Fluctuation in weather conditions from year to year has been found to be one of the most influential factors affecting range conditions. It is common knowledge among all who are familiar with western ranges that weather, and more especially precipitation, is one of the great uncertainties with which the operator

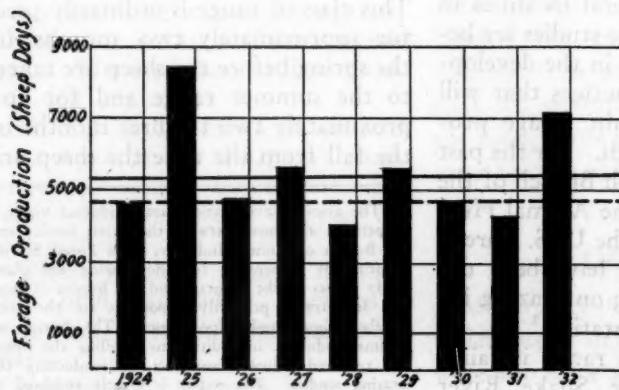
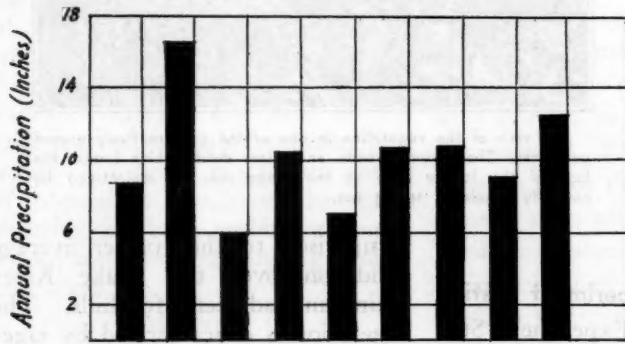


FIG. 1—Relation of Precipitation to Forage Production.

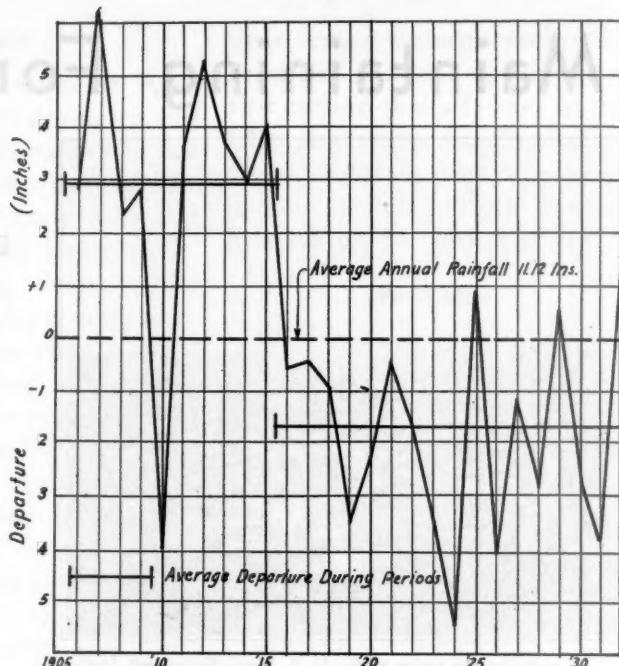


FIG. 2—Annual Rainfall—Idaho Falls, Idaho—1906 to 1932, Inclusive.

has to deal. In years of good rainfall and favorable climate in general, the range is better and livestock do better, and in years of poor growing conditions the outcome is less favorable. The results of the studies at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station are of particular interest in that these fluctuations in range conditions have been measured, and their analysis suggests the necessity of management measures which will meet these vicissitudes.

Figure 1 shows the precipitation for each year from October 1, 1923, to September 30, 1932, at the experiment station. Although the distribution of the precipitation throughout the year has a material influence on the growth of range vegetation, the total annual rainfall has proved a fair measure of moisture in relation to the growth of the range vegetation. During the 9-year period, the years 1924, 1926, 1928, and 1931 were below in precipitation, 1927, 1929, and 1930 were about average, and 1925 and 1932 were better than average. The lower columns in Figure 1 represent the forage produced in one of the paddocks in each of these years, as measured by actual grazing to fully utilize the feed by the end of the fall grazing season each year. As might be expected there is a fairly close relationship between forage production and rainfall. Only minor variations are to be observed. Forage production in 1926 was proportionately high in relation to precipitation, due apparently to the extension of the benefits of the abnormally high rainfall in 1925 into the following year. Forage production in 1928 is a little lower than rainfall alone would indicate, which is believed to be due in part to poor distribution of moisture and

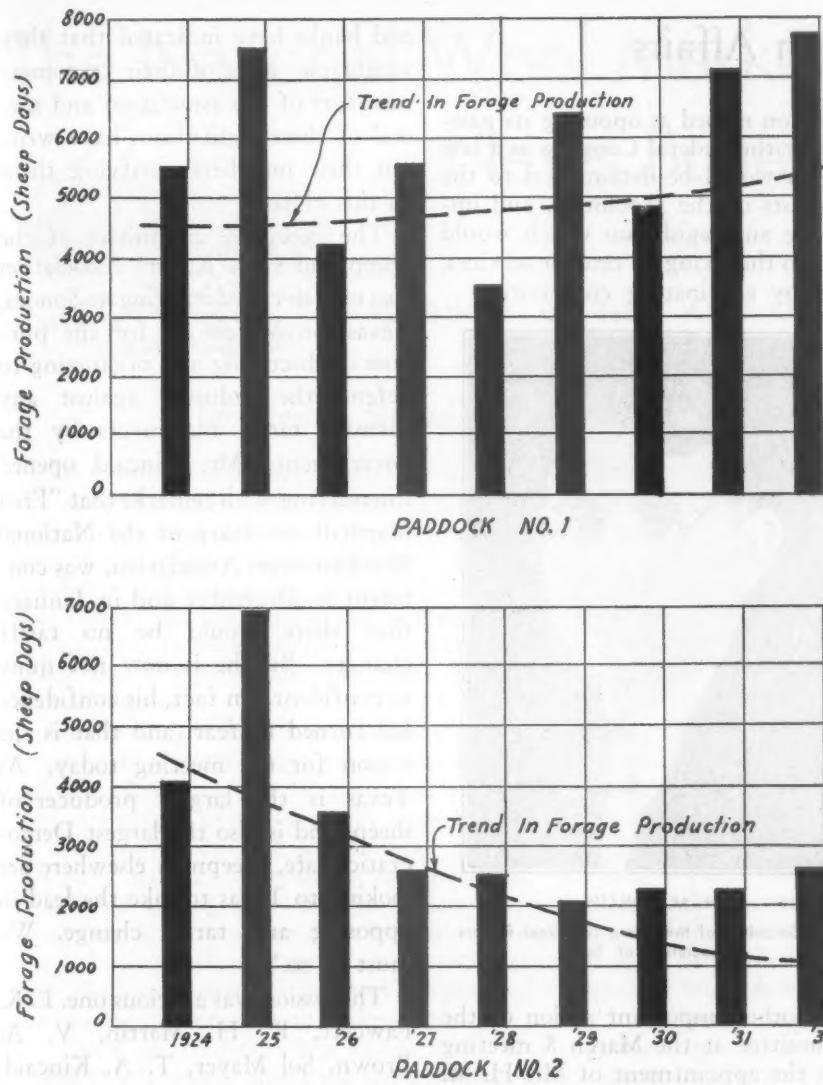


FIG. 3—Effect of Systems of Grazing on Forage Production.

in part to a cold backward spring. Again in 1930, forage production appears to be lower than would be expected, but this apparent discrepancy is due to an early snow that prevented full grazing in the fall of 1930.

These fluctuations in forage production are reflected in range sheep production. The number of lambs born alive each spring depends to a considerable extent on range conditions during the previous breeding season. The number of lambs born alive in the Sheep Experiment Station flocks was below average in 1925, 1927, and 1929 and range conditions were below average during the previous fall in each case. On

the other hand, the numbers of live lambs dropped in 1926, 1928, 1930, 1931 and 1932 were above average and these results correspond to favorable range conditions during each previous fall. Obviously, lamb production, lamb weights at weaning time, wool clip, etc. depend to a great extent upon summer range and winter feeding conditions, but spring-fall range conditions are of especial importance because the ewes are upon this range at two very critical times, namely, in the fall at breeding time and again in the spring at lambing time and when the young lambs are getting their start. An adequate forage supply is highly essential for both of these periods.

An inspection of Figure 1 indicates the importance of taking into account the fluctuations in range forage production from year to year when deciding upon the number of stock a range unit can adequately support over a period of years and also maintain forage production. For example, if an effort is made to stock on the basis of the better years, the range feed supply would have been fully adequate in only two years out of nine, at the Sheep Experiment Station. An attempt to stock on the basis of average forage production would have resulted in insufficient feed in four or five out of nine years. The safest plan, therefore, to insure an adequate supply of range feed in every year is to stock on the more conservative basis of a little less than average grazing capacity.

The year-to-year grazing capacity for the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station range has varied from as high as 39 sheep-days per acre to as low as 22 sheep-days per acre. The average grazing capacity over the ten-year period, 1923 to 1932, inclusive, has been about 30 sheep-days to the acre for both spring and fall use, or in other words, about one acre per month for each ewe including suckling lambs, but as already indicated, stocking on this basis would have resulted in a shortage of feed in four or five out of nine years. Stocking on the more conservative basis of 26 sheep-days per acre or 1.15 acres per head per month would have assured plenty of feed in most years. Since the spring-fall range in that locality is used approximately two months in the spring and two and one half months in the fall, this basis of stocking requires 5.18 acres of spring-fall range for each breeding ewe. Under this rate of grazing, this particular range can be expected to be maintained, or to improve gradually if it is not up to its maximum productivity at the present time.

This particular number of acres per head cannot be applied to sage- (Continued to page 29)

Texas Association Affairs

SINCE March 1, several matters have come before the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas which are vitally important to the industry and on which the executive committee of that association has acted with an eye to the growers' interest. Two meetings of the committee have been held, one on March 8 and the other on the 29th.

The question regarding the price to be paid Texas shearers has come before the association several times and each time Mr. T. A. Kincaid, president, has pointed out that the association has no authority to fix prices for wool, lambs, or anything else. The executive committee agreed that this question should be left entirely to the individual ranchman and shearer, and that the association could take no hand in the matter whatsoever. At the meeting on March 8, the executive committee, however, voted that the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association should place several rangers under retainer, and should the necessity arise for protecting Texas sheep and goatmen or their property, these rangers would be subject to the call of the president of the association.

Practically all shearing contracts being made over the state are at the rate of eight cents a head for sheep. This amount goes to the captain, who furnishes all machinery, the wool packer and the wool pick-up boy. The captain boards all the men. The shearers furnish their own handle, combs and cutters and receive from the captain 4 or 5 cents per head.

The association on March 8, resolved to strenuously oppose the adoption by the Railroad Commission of Texas of the Texas-Louisiana Tariff Bureau Application No. 1932, relating to the establishment on Texas Interstate Rules covering weights on carload shipments of livestock.

The association also called attention to House Resolution 6836 and

went on record as opposing its passage by the Federal Congress as a law which would be detrimental to the interests of the ranchmen, and opposing any legislation which would lead to the fixing of rates or services, thereby eliminating competition.



H. M. PHILLIPS

New Secretary of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas

Another important action of the committee at the March 8 meeting was the appointment of Mr. H. M. Phillips of San Angelo, as secretary of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association. Mr. Phillips is well acquainted with the wool and sheep industry. He was a student at the Texas A. and M. College, and for the past three and a half years, has been editor of *The Co-operator*, a magazine of the cooperative wool and mohair producers that has a wide circulation in Texas and New Mexico. He is also secretary of the Texas Eat-More-Lamb Club.

More interest has been evinced in the association and the payment of association dues than has been apparent for several years. The Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, and other government banks, loan companies, wool and mohair warehouses

and banks have indicated that they would pay dues of their customer-members of the association and several of these institutions have written their members notifying them to this effect.

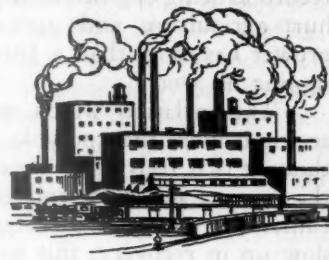
The executive committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association also met in called meeting at Sonora, Texas, on March 29, for the purpose of discussing and organizing to defend the industry against any harmful tariff maneuvers by the government. Mr. Kincaid opened the meeting with remarks that "Fred Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, was confident in December and in January that there would be no tariff changes. But he is now not quite so confident. In fact, his confidence has turned to fear, and that is the reason for the meeting today. As Texas is the largest producer of sheep, and is also the largest Democratic state, sheepmen elsewhere are looking to Texas to take the lead in opposing any tariff change. We must do so."

The session was a serious one. E. K. Fawcett, R. H. Martin, V. A. Brown, Sol Mayer, T. A. Kincaid, Roy Aldwell, Fred Earwood, and numerous others of the most widely known sheepmen in the state expressed themselves in practically the same words. "Our country is going to the dogs if we get free trade, and it is time for us to do something to protect ourselves."

The gathering of approximately 50 stockmen unanimously decided that Sol Mayer, president of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, and Coke Stevenson, speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, will be sent by the association to appear before the Senate hearing to fight in behalf of the sheepmen in the tariff struggle.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation

News Bulletin



GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED

The Present Situation

WE commented in our article last month on a quiet spell that had existed for some little time in Boston, and at that time felt that there was a real possibility that this market would hold where it is today. This possibility still exists, but more and more it is evident that for at least one time in the history of wool buying the growers themselves this season positively hold the cards which will decide the trend of values in this recovery game.

As we view it, we are definitely launched on a program that is tending upward and is unquestionably going to bring us out of the most serious depression that the people of this country ever found themselves in and away from the lowest wool prices on record. We have made great strides in this direction. We have established a program with the dealers that has effectively stabilized wool prices. It is not an experiment, but it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of not only the wool growers, the wool dealers, and ourselves, but the manufacturers, that the system will work.

Now we find ourselves in the midst of a shearing season that presents about the most unsatisfactory wool market one can imagine, and what are we going to do about it? Are we going to let this thing fall out from under us, or are we going to continue our established, improved policy of stabilization and cooperation all the way through the whole textile industry and take advantage of our opportunities?

The Administration has given us everything to work with that it possibly can. They have pulled us out of the water where we were positively drowning, and got us on the beach, and with all the life-saving equipment they have, have injected as many remedies as possible so that we are now able to get up and around, and we don't feel that we should entirely forget the fact that we were in the water, almost drowning, at one time. The power that pulled us out was the cooperation of the dealers and manufacturers with the National Wool Marketing Corporation and growers, and this cooperation and these effective stabilization methods should be continued or we have gained nothing from our experience.

Wool can drop back again, not to the point where

it was, but it can ease off, and it is going to ease off if something is not done to protect it, and this protection is entirely in the hands of the grower in the West. It is not fair to the dealers to say that they are trying to push the market down for any selfish purpose, because put yourself in the dealers' place and you would buy wool just as cheaply as you possibly could. That is perfectly natural. Anyone who is purchasing any kind of stock could not be successful if he didn't buy it at the low point of the market and sell it as the market rose. We do not feel that the dealer wants to drive the wool grower out of business, but we can't blame him for buying wool as cheaply as possible, and right at this particular time, with a lot of tariff reduction being feared, what would you do if you were in his place? Naturally you would figure to buy your wools on a basis where you could make a profit on them even if the tariff was cut 50 per cent, and, furthermore, you would naturally take into consideration any other depressing possibilities that might tend to put wool down, so that you would be assured of a profit under any conditions that might arise. The question then with which the grower in the West will likely be confronted is, Will you sell your wool at a price that discounts all the unfavorable circumstances that exist, or will you take a chance and ship it East on consignment with a hope and a real probability that all these unfavorable factors will not become established?

Apparently the fear that has arisen everywhere about the tariff is on account of a small book that Secretary Wallace published, called "America Must Choose," in which he pointed out the different courses that might be pursued and the different effects each course might have. On his middle course something was intimated about a reduction in the tariff on wool. The bill which is now before Congress, giving the President the power to raise or lower the tariff without any act of Congress, is going into the Senate committee the week after this is being written, but none of us is assured that this bill is going to go through. The growers, dealers, and manufacturers are all protesting against it, and it is quite possible that it will not be passed at this session of Congress, in which case certainly the grower would win by shipping his wool. But even if the bill does pass, why should we feel that

the President would immediately cut the tariff that would affect any of our domestic products? He is on record as being opposed to any tariff changes that would hurt agriculture and agricultural products, so the grower has more than a 50-50 chance to win by consigning his wool.

The inflation which we referred to in our last article is more than possible. There is a large school of thought that feels this is the one and only way to handle the present situation, and if the Administration continues the course it has started on, and there is any slow-up in recovery, this would be the natural procedure for them to follow. It hardly seems feasible for the Administration to turn around on the course it has started, and immediately take the old conservative attitude, and disregard any decline in commodity values when under this monetary inflation commodity values would have to go up; and whether the idea is sound or not, it would be nothing unusual

in the midst of this recovery experiment. A large amount of paper would be printed where the government would be issuing currency rather than paying interest on bonds that are now outstanding, and all this would pull money out of savings banks and put money into circulation, and unquestionably raise commodity prices, and raise the value of everything, including the overmortgaged real estate that exists all over the country.

Don't misunderstand us; we are not advocating any inflation, and a great many people who are advocating putting out this money do not call themselves inflationists because of the fact that our paper currency is backed by a far greater amount of gold than is necessary, and they maintain that we could issue three times as much paper today in this country and still be well within the necessary 40 per cent gold backing. We are simply bringing this out to try to show the wool growers one of the many possibilities in the picture that could make today's wool prices look awfully low; in fact, could make the peak prices of 1933 look low. We are not saying that this is going to happen, but, representing the growers as we are, we cannot sit on the sidelines and see them sell their wools during one of the dullest periods of the year, at prices which are bound to

break the Boston market, without pointing out to them their possibilities.

We have received copies of letters written by some banks in the West advising their growers to sell their wools. These banks of course hold mortgages on the growers' wool, and if they advise them to sell they have got to sell. This to us seems quite unfair to the growers. After all, the wool growers of the West have done a great deal for the bankers. In normal times there are no accounts on the bankers' books that are more profitable to have and more sought after than those of the sheepmen. Some day these wool growers are going to be back on their feet, and if those bankers who are advising the sale of the wool happen to make a mistake, and some of the possibilities we have pointed out come into play, the grower is not going to feel so happy, nor is he going to have the respect for his banker that he should. This depression has taken away the grower's independence to quite an extent, and while he is

THE NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

Respectfully Solicits Your Business

We believe our record has proven and can continue to prove the effective service we can give the wool growers, not only because of our admitted merchandising ability, but because of the influence we can exert on the stabilization of the wool market.

Wool growers have the opportunity to continue to support the program that was started last year and which worked out very advantageously. By shipping their wool to the National the success of this program can be continued.

The National gives you the opportunity of enjoying the average clean price over the entire selling period by marketing your wool under the Unit Marketing Plan, or of having your wool sold by itself as an individual lot.

The National does not buy or speculate in wool for its own account.

NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

educated to it through absolute necessity, nevertheless, such dictatorial tactics "stick in his craw," and from our viewpoint the banker is taking a lot of responsibility in times like this to insist that his growers sell their wool. After all, his judgment is only the judgment of one man, and the past few years have taught us all that the biggest men in this country have erred seriously in their judgment.

Why not give this grower the opportunity to consign his wool? The Administration has taken the stand that all government-financed wools must be consigned. It is doing this for the interest of the wool grower. It is deep enough into the situation to know its ground to the extent that it is not going to make a serious mistake. Furthermore, it has all the power in the world to prevent such a mistake. Wouldn't it be reasonable to assume that its policy will be to protect the price of wool and see that the wool growers get all the protection within its power, rather than to feel that it is going to do something that would drop the bottom out of the wool market? The government stand of course is for permanent recovery, and the Farm Credit Administration last year established, itself, the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, and

is very well pleased with the way it operated all during the marketing period of 1933. It has come out and recommended the same thing this year, and goes so far as to insist that all government-financed wools be shipped East on consignment either to approved dealers or to cooperatives. Doesn't it seem that it has quite a responsibility when doing this, and doesn't it seem reasonable that it is going to play its cards in such a way that wool prices will be maintained? Certainly it does, but it is not going to do it all alone. It is going to expect the cooperation of the growers who are producing this wool to aid it in maintaining wool values and stabilizing prices with the assistance of the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, which is working very closely with the National and the wool dealers.

As a matter of fact, it appears to us that the wool growers owe to this Administration the support of this program that it has launched. Certainly the Farm Credit Administration a year ago brought them out of the depths and started them on the real road to recovery. Now if the grower throws all his opportunities away he can't say that this Administration, the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, and the National Wool Marketing Corporation didn't give him proper support and protection.

From a merchandising standpoint, which as a sales agency of course is the way we look at this picture, how ridiculous it is to try to sell wool today on an unwilling market. We may be wrong, but from all the information we can get in New York and from other manufacturing friends, this market is going to stay quiet for another month or more unless something unforeseen occurs to stimulate it. Why try to sell your wool at a time when no one wants to buy it unless he can buy it discounting all unfavorable market possibilities? The chances are in your favor to ship wool either to the National or dealers. There is going to be some good business later on in the year. This market won't be dead forever, but it will probably be dead during quite a portion of the shearing season. People in this country have to be clothed; more of them are receiving pay checks; retail business on the whole is good. There are no surplus stocks of any of the wool textile materials; manufacturers are making some money, which they haven't done in years; and the stage is set for good business over the period of the next two years unless all signs fail; but the market in Boston is stagnant. Why is this so? Because the manufacturer has enough wool to run him along for a few months, and he is fearful of what the wool grower himself is going to do in the West. He had no hesitancy about buying wool when it was in strong hands in Boston and he knew that values would be maintained, but he looks upon wool on the sheep's back or in some warehouse out West as being in weak hands, and why should he go ahead today and buy wool, feeling that the grower

is going to kick the props out from under himself and put this wool market way down?

None of the wool growers would do it if they were in the wool manufacturing business, and it is perfectly natural that the wool market should be dull today, and until the grower realizes his opportunity and ships his wool into strong hands, where it will be protected on a stabilized market, that manufacturer is not going to be active unless values drop to a point where he is ready to go ahead, knowing that nothing in the future will happen to make things any worse and put wool values any lower.

It is on this kind of a market that we do not want to see growers sell. Most of them are follow-through people who realize their opportunities, and certainly they have one today by shipping their wool on consignment. Of course we naturally hope that the National Wool Marketing Corporation will be favored with its full share of this consignment business, because we believe that by and by the large growers will recognize the part we have played and are playing in their recovery program and realize that we are working to protect their interests to the fullest possible extent.

Wool Merchandising

THE good wool merchant is one who takes advantage of his opportunity and sells on the bulges, so to speak, and does his utmost to protect the market during any recession in prices. In order to do this it is necessary to be equipped to move a large weight of wool while there is real manufacturer activity.

This is something that the National Wool Marketing Corporation sales force has been in a position to do, whereas people handling smaller quantities of wool have not had the opportunity. The National has made a great study of the merchandising problems with which it has been confronted because of the fact that in the past it has had such a large weight of wool to work with and such a varied stock, and with this it has developed a feeling among the manufacturers that when the manufacturers wanted wool of any description they could come to the National and get it. Consequently the National Wool Marketing Corporation has been able to work itself into a position where the manufacturer usually expects to buy more wool from the National than he does from any other one individual outfit, and it has given us an opportunity to really take advantage in a big way of the time to sell when it is most advantageous to the growers.

An example of this was shown a few months ago when we had some activity. We sold several million pounds of wool at a time when other houses were selling comparatively very little wool. We are working with our trade on a large scale constantly, and when situations develop that are favorable to us we are in an excellent position to take advantage of them.

For instance, today we are in the midst of an extremely dull market, and everyone is wondering what is going to happen to wool, wondering whether prices can be maintained, and fearing that the growers may sell their wool too cheaply in the West and thereby reduce values. We foresaw such a situation and actually sold practically all of the wool we had that goes to the bulk of our trade before this dead spell came upon us. We feel that we are in a better position today in this respect than any of the other handlers of wool, so as far as our 1933 wools are concerned we haven't got to worry a great deal even if this market should go off. Our wools were sold while prices were right, when we had a real market.

We do not want to appear boastful about this, because it is not our idea to be so, but we believe that we are in a position that affords us an opportunity to develop a broader outlet and a larger merchandising system than has been possible to other people.

Now our decks are clear, so to speak; most of the old stock is out of the way, and we have to deal with practically only the 1934 clip. We are laying our plans to successfully merchandise this clip during the next year and account for it in such a way that we can make money for our supporters.

Government Representative Discusses Cooperative Wool Selling

THE article printed below was officially released for morning newspapers of April 20. It was prepared and sent out by the Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C.

The Farm Credit Administration now controls and finances the loaning operations of the Intermediate Credit Banks, the Production Credit Associations and the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporations, and has advanced over nine million dollars to the National Wool Marketing Corporation for handling its consignments of 1934 wools.

Growers who marketed their wool cooperatively through the National Wool Marketing Corporation in 1933 received in many instances 150 to 200 per cent more in net returns than the growers who sold outright to speculators early in the season, according to C. G. Randell, in charge of the livestock and wool section of the Cooperative Division, Farm Credit Administration. Final returns netted many members 25 to 30 cents a pound compared with 10 to 12 cents a pound received by their neighbors who sold to speculators in the spring.

"Some of those who dumped their wool early at the low prices," said Mr. Randell, "were growers who formerly marketed cooperatively. They became uneasy when the market showed strength and hurried to sell. The wool speculators last year reaped a profit of several millions of dollars that would have gone to the producers, had the producers taken the orderly method of marketing.

"The National is strictly grower owned and controlled. It is the sole sales agency for 30 cooperative wool marketing associations with a membership of nearly 40,000 growers covering the entire country. All wool handled is member wool and each clip is sold on its merits and accounted for on a grade and quality basis.

No wool is held for speculation, but is sold at the market whenever there is a demand for it.

"Wool accumulated by its affiliated cooperatives is delivered to the National and marketed in an orderly manner to mill customers. The National has more than 200 manufacturers as customers. Mills needing raw stocks look to the National because of the wide variety of wools it has available in sizeable lots. This service, they know, cannot be duplicated in the trade as no other organization handles as large a volume or has as wide a selection of grades and types of wool.

"The bulk of the National's wool is handled by either of two general methods. Each member cooperative has its choice. The most popular method is the unit marketing plan.

"Under the unit plan each grower's wool is appraised and valued as it is placed in a big National pool. The appraisal determines on what basis each grower will participate in the returns of the pool. If the pool's returns are more than 100 per cent of this appraised value, all participants share alike on a percentage basis in the amount over the 100 per cent.

"In 1932 the pool returned approximately 11 per cent more to each grower than the original appraised value. Final returns for the 1933 unit plan have not yet been determined, but returns up to 100 per cent of the original appraised value are now being made. About 15 member agencies are now marketing under the unit marketing plan.

"By the other method, the member association has its wool sold in a separate pool. Many of the fleece wool associations prefer this method. A grower may receive a liberal advance on his clip at the time of delivery if he wishes.

"Reports from the local associations indicate that growers appreciate the benefits of marketing through the National. The stabilizing effect of the National on the entire industry has been realized by the growers and by the trade. The fact that growers have had the cooperative to turn to when the offers of speculators were unsatisfactory has raised the general price level in the country. It is generally known that non-member growers in many instances have obtained better prices by indicating their intention to ship to the National.

"Approximately 330,000,000 pounds of wool have been marketed through the National since it began operation in 1930 which is approximately 23 per cent of the shorn wool clip for the four-year period."

Foreign Wools

Fortunately for the wool growers of the United States, nothing has happened in the foreign primary markets to disturb our domestic wool values; but, on the contrary, values abroad have been high enough to preclude the possibility of American manufacturers buying foreign wools at values lower than the National Wool Marketing Corporation has consistently sold wools consigned to it.

The Australian wool clip, for the period July, 1933 to July, 1934, is currently reported to be some 67,000,000 pounds less than the previous season. Wools in all foreign markets were well cleared last season, and with the exception of some 100,000 bales of inferior Fine Brisbane wools, there will be no further Australian offerings until next October.

While we go to press, the delayed London sales will be held (early in May), but even should there develop a slight weakness, the cost of these wools will prohibit our manufacturers from using them generally.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

Material for this page should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, 241 East South Temple, Apt. 7, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Oregon News

THE Grant County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers met at the home of Mrs. R. T. McHaley near Prairie City on April 28, with Vice President Mrs. Frank Oliver, presiding. After the conclusion of the business session, the meeting was turned over to the entertainment committee who had prepared an excellent program, consisting of character dancing, vocal numbers and readings. At the conclusion of the program, Mrs. McHaley, assisted by Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Puett, Mrs. Stalker and Mrs. Buchanan entertained with a "Silver Tea," the proceeds being their contribution to the funds of the county chapter. There were 24 members and 41 visitors present, and six new members were enrolled.

The May meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. John Carter in Long Creek, the date to be announced later.

* * *

THE Umatilla Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers met at Cunningham Sheep Ranch on April 14, with President Mrs. Josephine Falconer presiding. A program consisting of guessing games was much enjoyed by all. There were 14 members and five visitors present, and one new member enrolled.

The regular study of this chapter at present is "American Rugs," and an interesting talk was given on this subject. Later they plan to study foreign-made rugs.

Plans were made to sponsor an essay contest in the schools to begin early in the fall.

They reported their afghan almost finished, and chances being sold for 10 cents each. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Percy Folsom on May 12.

Silver Tea to Close Club Year of Utah Auxiliary

THE state and local auxiliaries of Utah will give a Silver Tea, May 28, 1934, at the home of Mrs. J. R. Edgheill, president of the Salt Lake Auxiliary. The regular meeting will be held at 2 p. m., followed by a tea and social from 3 to 6 p. m.

Preparations are being made for one hundred guests and all members are requested to bring friends and enjoy the social and musical afternoon. Mrs. Hyrum Erickson and Mrs. Jas. A. Hooper, chairmen of the state and local entertainment committees, have charge of the arrangements.

* * *

The executive committee of the Utah Auxiliary met in regular session, April 30, 1934, at the Hotel Utah, in Salt Lake City, and made plans for visiting the various local chapters throughout the state. A project was also outlined for the coming year, calling for the use of the first fifteen minutes of each board meeting in lessons in parliamentary practice. Mrs. O. E. McGahan, state parliamentarian, will have charge of the work.

* * *

May we ask that all chapters in the state send in a report of their meetings to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, who will arrange to have them published in the National Wool Grower?

Emerson says: "We have gained nothing ourselves until we have given something to someone else."

May we be numbered with those who give.

Mrs. J. R. Eliason, President, Utah Auxiliary.

PARLIAMENTARY LESSON

By MRS. ELMER E. CORFMAN,
National Parliamentarian

Reconsider

THE general principle conceded is that any matter previously disposed of by vote, may be brought before the group as a whole, a second time.

One popular method employed by voluntary deliberative assemblies, is to ask for the reconsideration of some matter which has evidently been passed upon without sufficient study.

Reconsider the vote or action taken.

1. In order.

- (a) Member voted on prevailing side may make the motion.
- (b) On same day vote was taken.
- (c) On next calendar day of an adjourned meeting.
- (d) Next calendar day after vote was taken at a convention or series of days as a convention.
- (e) If To reconsider is lost, only by general consent can it again be voted upon.

2. Object of proposing the motion to reconsider.

- (a) The proposal of this motion with a second temporarily suspends all action contemplated until the vote is taken for and against the reconsideration, or
- (b) Until the effect of the motion as passed is terminated.

3. Object of the adoption of a reconsideration of the action taken.

- (a) To reopen for discussion and vote a matter already disposed of by vote at the same meeting.
- (b) To place the former motion in same position as though no vote had been recorded.

4. Motions that may be applied to, "To Reconsider":

- (a) Limit debate if the motion to be reconsidered is debatable.
- (b) Previous question, if motion is debatable.
- (c) Postpone definitely.
- (d) Lay on the Table.

5. Motion "To reconsider and have entered on the minutes" is of higher rank than, "To reconsider," which must yield to the highest ranking motion.

- (a) To reconsider and have entered on the minutes, delays all further action, discussion or voting on the day the vote was taken.
- (b) Any member may "call up" the reconsideration on the next regular day of meeting.

- (c) If not called up, the time is exhausted and the original measure goes by default.
- (d) This motion, too, must be made by one having voted on the prevailing side, and also requires a second, but no motions are applicable.
- (e) Same objective could be reached by applying certain motions to the motion, To reconsider, such as To lay on the Table, as this motion, too, is exhausted on the next following day, or To postpone definitely to an adjourned meeting or the next regular meeting.

6. Order of Sequence of the two motions, To reconsider, and To reconsider and have entered on the minutes, are of very high privilege.

- (a) Both may interrupt a speaker.
- (b) Both may be made when another motion or motions are pending or immediately pending.
- (c) To reconsider may not interrupt business such as voting, reading of reports, minutes, etc.
- (d) To reconsider and have entered on the minutes, may interrupt any business, as this is a notice and requires no voting nor attention with the exception of a second, and the recording in the minutes by the secretary.
- (e) This motion of higher rank is used as a protection for absentees where a full representation is lacking when the vote was taken or when the motion To reconsider was made, for the absentees may be notified so as to vote on some seemingly important matter affecting the whole group.

7. In Order of Precedence.

- (a) These two motions on To reconsider, though of such high privilege, cannot claim a higher rank in order of precedence than the motion to be reconsidered.
- (b) If a main motion is to be reconsidered, the pending main question must be first disposed of.
- (c) If an amendment is to be reconsidered, then the rank is of the subsidiary motion "to amend."
- (d) If an incidental or a privileged motion is that to be reconsidered, then the motion, to reconsider, is of that same importance or rank.

8. List of motions that cannot be reconsidered may be found in any manual on parliamentary law.

9. May a vote on a motion to amend be reconsidered?

- (a) The vote on a motion to amend may be reconsidered when such vote is the last vote taken. If it is desirable to reconsider the vote on a motion to amend after the main motion has been voted upon,

the vote on the main motion must first be reconsidered, then the vote on the amendment may be reconsidered.

Packers, Commission Men and Government Regulation

SOME producers of livestock who are intelligent and well-posted men have been convinced by the packers that direct marketing is to the advantage of both livestock producers and the packer. They have also been made to believe that there is not now nor has been collusion among the packers in fixing market prices of livestock products on the different market centers. These men, in my opinion, may do more harm to the interests of the livestock producer than any other class of men because they are members of our industry.

I do not question their honesty and sincerity but I do not think they have taken the pains to secure all the facts that are available or that they have carefully examined the records concerning the operations of the packers during the past.

Any livestock grower who will spend a few days in any livestock marketing center where livestock are being marketed, certainly can find out for himself that representatives of the packers always have about the same price each morning to open up the market. And if the livestock producer did not have commission men representing him, men who have had long experience in that business, he would, in my opinion, be entirely at the mercy of the packer and have to take this apparently fixed price for his livestock whenever he was on the market.

In my opinion this movement by the packers and others to be allowed to encourage direct marketing of livestock from the producer to the packer is a dangerous move and inimical to the best interests of the livestock producer. It is difficult for me to understand how any livestock producer could be so blind to his own interests as to advocate this sort of thing.

It is perhaps true that there are too many livestock commission men in the business and that the commission charged for selling livestock is too high. Nevertheless, as I see it, they are a necessary part of the machinery of marketing livestock and as long as I have livestock to market I shall always maintain that we livestock men need these commission men representing us on these markets, and I can never be converted to the absurd idea that all the packers are so fair-minded and so far above reproach that they will at all times give us the top of the market for our livestock unless they are compelled to do so.

The government has found it necessary to regulate our financial institutions and our stock exchanges and it certainly is necessary, if it is necessary to regulate these institutions, to take measures to insure to the producers that they will get a square deal from the packer. I do not believe the packer has any grounds for complaining of reasonable regulations because it has been proven beyond any doubt that all classes of industry and financial institutions need watching, especially when they become such large institutions as the stock exchanges, large banks and the meat packing industry.

Pendleton, Ore. Fred W. Falconer

A Junior Showman

FOR the second time during his career as a junior showman, Sam McMillan of the Santa Rosa High School Future Farmers of America chapter, has had the grand champion pen of lambs at the Interstate Junior Livestock show at South San Francisco, held this year March 25-29.

Young McMillan showed his first grand champion pen in 1930, as a freshman in high school. Since that time he has been building up a flock of purebred and good grade Southdowns, and this year exhibited a pen from his own herd, with the ewes bred to a purebred Southdown ram.

Labeling and Other Means of Promoting Wool Consumption

THE letter printed below comes from Mr. C. E. Converse, sales manager of Sears, Roebuck and Company. This firm, according to Mr. Kleber H. Hadsell, secretary of the Wyoming Agricultural Council, has been labeling the virgin-wool content of its men's wear products and has also been very active in other ways in promoting the use of woolen articles.

Mr. Kleber H. Hadsell,
Wyoming Agricultural Council,
Rawlins, Wyoming.

Dear Mr. Hadsell:

Samples of the materials which you requested are enclosed. I am sorry I cannot give you the wool content as this information is not supplied us by the mills. You will notice, however, that three of the samples are marked all wool.

Better grades of material offered throughout the industry are made of virgin wools exclusively, the reclaimed wool being used for cheaper grades of material that goes into shoddy type garments.

Undoubtedly the consumer has a right to know the wool content of fabrics and also whether they are entirely or only part virgin wool. The labeling of all materials in this way is only a short way off, for better regulations and public insistence, though working very slowly, have had their effect.

This company has been very aggressive in analyzing, testing and improving materials, and maintains a wonderfully equipped laboratory for carrying on such tests. Samples of all materials offered by manufacturers are analyzed to insure the materials received meeting specifications. This is possible, of course, only with a tremendous volume of sales, and the smaller retailer is at a decided disadvantage in that respect.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for most retailers to influence manufacturers to any great extent. In fact, the condition of the wool industry today rests almost entirely with the wool industry itself rather than the retailers, for after all the retail dealer is only a medium between manufacturer and consumer and supplies what the public demands on one hand and what the factory makes available on the other. The wool industry has not cooperated in research or methods or advertising, or much of anything else, either to the benefit of themselves or the wool grower.

In twenty years the market for wool piece goods has decreased about 42 per cent. This is largely brought about by changing conditions and styles making a much lower per

capita consumption of wool. Ever since 1909 the industry has been losing ground. Yet, according to the Department of Commerce, if each adult in the United States would buy annually 5.38 ounces more wool than he now buys, the industry would come back with a bound. This is about the weight of a vest. Certainly it is not an impossible job to raise the consumption, but as yet no sales efforts have ever been tried to sell us that extra six ounces. While manufacturers of other materials have stepped out and lead the industry with new styles and fashions, the wool industry has been content to take whatever share of the business should happen to come its way, hoping that public taste would turn voluntarily. Twenty years ago the man in the blue serge suit was the best customer the industry has ever known. Six months the mills ran on heavy weight blue serges, and the other six months on light weight blue serges. It was as simple as that, but it seems to be a fact that the conservatism of any industry is directly proportional to its age, and the wool industry is one of the oldest industries. They have been content to sit on the curbstone in front of their shops and wait for the return of the man in the blue serge suit.

In the meantime the rayon industry has been anything but idle, and has largely effected the change in styles, which have practically forgotten the wool petticoat and blue serge suit. Their garments are delicate, light, comfortable and fashionable, and of equal importance, they are inexpensive. Retailers would welcome a return of wool garments for there is little profit in selling a handsome young woman a step-in she will step out of each evening, rinse out in the wash basin and hang on the radiator only to step into the next morning. It may be fine for the young woman, but it is not good for business.

Only with the expenditure of considerable money in research and promotional activities will the average square yard consumption of wool material be raised from its present 1.1 square yard per customer to 6.4 square yards where it stood in the golden days of 1909. It is not unreasonable to imagine the fashionable cuts of woolen material given colors and new fabrics that are cool, sheer and lovely, to replace the usual wool garments that are for the most part uncomfortably heavy, warm and itchy. Can you imagine an evening dress made entirely of wool, or bed sheets so woven they are smooth, thin and inviting? Probably not, most people can't. Yet, most people could not imagine rayon or celanese.

Rather than asking for fairer, accurate labeling and other considerations, which though they are important will not materially raise consumption, the wool growers should build a fire under the manufacturer, raise him on his feet again and start him on productive research, and make him look ahead to new products and new sales figures instead of backwards to the days of blue

serge suits. Such a revival in trade would win 100 per cent esteem and cooperation of the retailers in regulating competition, labeling and merchandise.

Yours truly,
C. E. CONVERSE,
Sales Promotion Manager.

Commission Companies Refund to Shippers

THE following statement recently was issued by the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company at Sioux City, Iowa:

The Farmers Union Live Stock Commission of Sioux City, Iowa, paid a patronage dividend of 45 per cent to all patron members, amounting to \$53,900.45, on the 1933 business. There was a balance in the earnings accounts amounting to \$4,755.37, which was added to the reserve fund account, bringing the account up to \$56,550.

The hog, cattle, and sheep departments of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission of Sioux City, showed a very substantial increase during 1933. We have been far in the lead for the number of hogs handled for a number of years. In addition to this, we still showed an increase in 1933 over 1932 of 2.88 per cent.

In 1933 we received 45,680 head of cattle compared with 34,240 head received in 1932, an increase of 25.5 per cent.

We received 87,721 head of sheep in 1933, compared with 59,215 head in 1932, an increase of 32.49 per cent.

The Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company at the Omaha market has reported in 1933 its receipts from commissions amounted to \$167,087.66 and its total expense, \$74,697.05. Its net savings for the year's operations were \$93,860.48. A dividend of 45 per cent of the total commissions received by the company and totaling \$75,189.44 was distributed among its patrons early in March. The company states that the \$18,671.00 difference between the total net savings and the patronage dividend was placed in its surplus account.

The Progressive Farmers Co-Op Commission of Sioux City, Iowa, paid a 50 per cent dividend in 1933 to its patrons. This concern is a 100 per cent cooperative organization and pays dividends to all members of all state-wide farm organizations. A saving of almost 50 per cent during the first three months of 1934 has been announced.

Lamb Markets in April

Kansas City - Denver - St. Joseph - Chicago

Kansas City

APRIL recorded a new high lamb price for the past two years. Spring lambs went to \$11.25 and fed lambs to \$10.25. For fed lambs this was \$2.50 above the extreme top last year and \$2 above the extreme high on spring lambs in 1933. The net advance for the month was 85 cents on fed lambs and \$1 on spring lambs and the maximum rise was \$1 and \$1.25 on the two classes. The market made a much better showing than had been expected, as the March close reflected considerable weakness in demand for dressed lamb and it was anticipated that the consumer side had begun to discriminate against it because of the high price.

However, this weakness began to disappear in the first week of the month and from then on there was a steady upward trend in prices. The wool market did not impart the same per cent of strength as in former months but feeder demand continued in ample volume to care for all classes not suited to killer requirements. March closed with the top for lambs at \$8.85 and April started with a \$9 top, but dropped 40 cents in the next two days. A recovery started April 9, that elevated the price to \$9.75 by the 17th. A temporary setback occurred on the 18th that extended to the 23rd but from then on there was a vigorous rally that uncovered a \$10.25 top on April 26. The next few days saw another setback that brought the closing top to \$9.85. While prices fluctuated within about a normal range the average for the month was higher than in March and above the February level when the previous high point of the year was established. In the average, demand was fairly broad and fairly stable but killers were inclined to be bearish when the market approached the \$10 mark. Fat lambs were so much

higher, both relatively and actually, as compared with cattle and hogs that there was danger of consumer demand going dead.

The supply of winter-fed lambs has been marketed closely. In the past ten days the per cent of shorn grades has increased and most of them sold at \$8.25 to \$8.75 or slightly more than \$1 discount as compared with wool grades. Another two weeks will practically clean up the supply of winter-fed lambs and by June 1 the remaining supply will draw a yearling classification. Last year when fed lambs came near the yearling classification they brought \$4 to \$4.50.

Lamb feeders have had a successful season. Death losses have been small, feed has produced satisfactory weight gains and there has been no price discrimination against weight. Generally speaking the feeder is in a good position financially to feed again next winter. The feed situation, however, is not promising at the present time. There is a deficiency in rainfall in most states, and the alfalfa fields are infested with bugs so that first cuttings will be materially reduced. However, the large amount of corn that is under government loans will have to find some outlet in feeding channels during the fall months. The spring lamb crop in Arizona has been marketed closely, but the feed situation in California has been less favorable than was indicated a month ago, so it looks as if the early part of the new-crop lamb supply will not hold up to expectations.

Thus far native spring lambs have moved in limited supply. In the past ten days the \$10.75 to \$11.25 price range has failed to attract any appreciable supply and reports indicate that the big part of the run will not get under way until June.

Most of the fat sheep offered during the month were ewes. Several

consignments came from California and Arizona that sold at \$4 to \$4.50. They were shorn. Wool ewes from Colorado and Kansas sold at a range of \$4.50 to \$5.65, and on the close \$5 was the limit. Some full fleece yearlings brought \$8.50 to \$8.75, but they were in limited supply and from now on will be scarce.

The movement of feeding lambs the past month was not large. Several good sized bunches of Texas lambs went to feed lots at \$8 to \$8.25 and odd bunches were picked up at \$7.50 to \$8.75. Shearing lambs brought \$8 to \$9. There was a limited movement from the Southwest to central feed lots. Good breeding ewes sold at \$5 to \$6 and one lamb prospects at \$4 to \$5. However, nothing very inviting was offered in the young ewe class. Demand would care for increased supplies at firm prices.

April receipts were 173,408 compared with 203,760 in April last year. A year ago there was a liberal movement of Texas grass fat sheep but thus far dry conditions in Texas have kept sheep from taking on normal weight. In the four months receipts were 594,750, or a decrease of 62,137 compared with the first four months of 1933.

C. M. Pipkin.

Denver

SHARP advances occurred in the fed and spring lamb market at Denver during the month of April. Fed lambs were around \$1 higher at the close than at the opening of the month, with instances during the month of a gain of \$1.25.

Sheep receipts were 217,439 head, compared to 245,581 during the same month last year. Trade was active throughout the month. Best fed lambs were selling up to \$8.90 at the close of March. By the middle of April, they had gone to \$9.35

and on the closing session best fed lambs brought \$9.90, although a few days before the buyers were taking choice fed lambs at \$10 to \$10.25, the highest prices in four years.

Again on May 1, \$10 took the top lambs, while on May 2, tops went at \$10.10 to \$10.15. Spring lambs that were bringing from \$9.50 to \$10 early in April sold up to \$10.15 at the close, with \$10.40 as the best price for California springers during the month. Many loads of Californias sold during April at \$10 to \$10.25. On May 2, many loads of California spring lambs brought \$10.50, the highest price paid so far this season. Ewes sold largely from \$3.75 to \$5 at the close of April, whereas best ewes were bringing up to \$5.40 at the close of March.

With limited supplies of fed lambs in feed lots tributary to the Denver market, the trade is expected to absorb all desirable kinds coming to market in the next few weeks at highly satisfactory prices. The avidity with which buyers are taking the spring lambs now reaching market indicates a strong demand for this class of stock, and with reports from California and others of the early lamb producing states indicating a rather limited supply in sight for the next few weeks, the trade is anticipating fairly satisfactory prices for those reaching market.

W. N. Fulton.

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for April were 133,798, compared with 115,071 in March and 140,502 in April a year ago. With lighter supplies at all points, the market for lambs was in good shape and closing prices were approximately \$1 higher than a month ago, or back to the high close of February. At the close of March the top was \$9; during the first week of April it dropped to \$8.65, but after this prices were up and down until the 27th, when the top reached \$10.25, with bulk of lambs at this figure. On the final day of the month prices dropped, the closing top being \$10.10, with bulk of

sales \$9.75@9.90. Clipped lambs sold at \$8.60 on the extreme close. Spring lambs were very scarce throughout the month, with natives up to \$11 on the close and a few shipments of Californias \$9.50@10 straight. Numerous loads of shearing lambs sold during the month from \$8.50@9.40. Aged sheep closed around 50 cents lower for the month. On the close wool ewes sold \$4.75@5, with clips \$3.75@4.25. Yearlings sold up to \$9 during the month and old wethers \$5.25@6.75.

H. H. Madden.

Chicago

ENTERING its most perilous season, the lamb market displayed a healthy undertone. By dint of persistent pounding the buying side of the trade held prices down during the first half of April; subsequently bullish prophecy was abundantly verified, the crystal ball of divination operating at 100 per cent efficiency. On the last round of the month the highest prices of the season were paid for both wooled and shorn stock although sheep slipped. The top went to \$10.25 on old crop lambs, recording zenith since June, 1931; shorn stock with a short growth of wool realized \$9. At the corresponding period of 1933 a scratch sale of wooled lambs was made at \$6.25, bulk selling at \$5.85@6, against \$10@10.20 on this occasion; shorn lambs a year ago bulked at \$5.25@5.65, against \$8.50@8.85 this season.

All this may or may not require elucidation. In the first place dressed trade ran into a miniature boom. A burdensome processing tax on hogs operated to the decided advantage of both beef and lamb, which were profusely featured in chain store "leader" sales while pork was ignored. Consumer resentment of a tax on meat literally demoralized fresh pork trade and did no good for merchandising cured meats. The American public is tax weary. It will stand imposts on booze and "gas," but when that vicious principle is applied to food, unorganized

resentment is a logical result. At the April 26 meeting in Chicago to discuss a proposed processing tax on cattle, for which the obvious inspiration is the bedraggled condition of the hog market, an official, possibly one of the many brain trust groups, lamented the fact that in developing the plan, the word "tax" was requisitioned, admitting that it had a sinister sound, but he was wrong in his psychology as a tax by any other name would stink the same. There may be significance in the fact that on the Chicago market session late in April when fed lambs topped at \$10.25, the top on hogs was \$3.95 and top cattle realized \$8.60.

No effort will be made herein to obscure the fact that lamb trade had the benefit of a light supply, the seven principal markets handling only about 750,000 head during April, compared with 970,000 in April, 1933, but that argument cannot be applied to cattle as the same markets handled 100,000 more bovines than a year ago.

At no time did dressed lamb encounter sales resistance, although wholesale prices advanced sharply. Late in April when eastern demand came strong at Chicago, prices mounted until a \$10@10.25 live lamb basis was reached; even at that altitude no serious reaction occurred. At New York late in April prime old-crop lamb carcasses sold at \$19@20; prime springers at \$22@24, and common old croppers at \$15@17. At Chicago fed lamb carcasses sold largely at \$18@19; the pick of the rail at \$20@21, springers realizing anywhere from \$18 to \$23, largely \$20@22. Imagine what the trade would have been had lambs been saddled with the same tax as hogs, \$2.25 per hundred. Inevitably feeders would have been penalized to that extent and it is logical to assume that consumers would have shown the same resentment as developed in the case of pork. A year ago difficulty was experienced in wholesaling dressed lamb in the \$9 to \$12.50 per hundred range.

Sheep did not fare as well. Live sheep, mainly ewes, declined 50

cents per hundred, while lambs were being marked up a dollar, only a handful earning \$5 in the fleece, shorn ewes peddling at \$3.25@3.75. At wholesale mutton carcasses vend- ed at \$7 to \$12, according to weight and quality. A year ago it was a \$4@7 market.

Killers had good margins on their meat turnover, all through the month, although they protested vol- ubly when live lambs were on a \$9 @9.25 basis. At the higher level, on reduced slaughter, they were silent on the subject, but most of the time they bought for numbers and, invariably, were anxious to en- gage lambs by telephone at break of day. Pee-wee lambs were always in demand, in striking contrast to a puny pig market at \$1 to \$1.50 per hundred. Instances of bids ranging from 1/6 to 1/8 cents per pound on pigs were recorded while light lambs were eligible to a premium for phony springer circulation. In one instance a salesman offered a load of 50-pound pigs to a packer as a gift. "I'll take a sort on that basis," was the answer.

In the swing of the month's prices top woolled stock ranged between \$9.10 and \$10.25, but it was a mine run market, a large share of any day's receipts going over the scales at one popular figure. It was either a \$10 or a \$9.75, or a \$9.50 market. As the crop carried a large percent- age of low dressing stock this condition operated to the advantage of feeders who took the short route to market. Occasionally a city butcher or a shipper paid a premium for condition, or quality, but that rule was in reverse most of the time. Feeders did considerable bragging about the low cost of range lambs last fall, wide margins at selling time, and big gains, for which a phenomenally open season was responsible. Not even during boom price periods did feeders tuck away as much net money in their wallets. Cattle feeders "hollered" about government pegged corn prices, but the lamb operator was silent on the subject.

Spreads between shorn and woolled lambs of the old crop narrowed as

temperatures increased and woolled goods deteriorated, but the percent- age of shorn stock was the smallest in many years. At the high spot late in April shorn lambs with a short growth of wool sold at \$9, but not in numbers sufficient to fill a one-seated buggy.

Reviewing April trade the ef- ficiency of eastern demand must be recognized as a prime factor in mak- ing prices. Whenever shippers were in the market prices went up. Until mid-month the buying side held the big end of the stick; suddenly its grip was reversed. At first the up- grade was gradual, then it became steep, an advance of 25 cents per day being frequent; sometimes 40 cents was put on, until the \$10 line was crossed, although on the last round a slight reaction occurred. Meanwhile the previous wide spread between shorn and woolled lambs was contracted to \$1.50 per hundred. Sheep trade dragged all through the month. On the early low spot packers bought many lambs below \$9.25; later \$10 was the low side on anything with decent finish and quality. The one- price phase of the market elicited complaint, but as everybody made money, the protest was subdued. Short feeding enabled weight to keep up with the price procession, in fact heavy carcasses were cordially greet- ed by dressed trade.

Spring lambs were scarce. One string of Californias reached Chi- cago to earn \$10.75, natives selling in a wide range of \$10 to \$13.

By this time the old crop of lambs is practically out. As the market works on a new crop basis, irregular- ity will be logical. Denver is absorb- ing most of the free Colorado lambs and will. Tennessee and Kentucky lambs have been set back by un- favorable physical conditions, Idaho shed lambs are short of their usual numbers so that a display of pyro- technics is possible. Texas is out of the picture so far as fat lambs are concerned, but will be in the feeder market later with both feet, owing to growing popularity of its product. At this stage intelligent dis-

cussion of the feeding lamb prospect is impossible. Growers will be in no hurry to sell and the corn pros- pect is dubious owing to drouth and a chinch bug invasion that de- devastated the crop east of the Missis- sippi last year. Bugs have wintered well and at this writing are trailing corn planters, intent on a banquet that may exert potent influence on prices, incidentally justifying the government corn loan program.

J. E. Poole.

Production Credit Association for Northwest

THE Northwest Livestock Pro- ducers Credit Association, some- thing that range operators desire generally, with headquarters at Port- land, is now a reality. Production credit will be provided range oper- ators in the states of Oregon, Wash- ington, and Northern Idaho. Herb Williams, formerly vice-president of the Production Credit Corporation, Spokane, and before that manager of the branch office of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation in Portland, has been engaged as manager. Mac Hoke, Pendleton, is president; Ed Grelle, Portland, Tom Drumheller, Walla Walla, vice- presidents; Garnet Barret, Heppner, J. W. Richardson, Hoover, Wash- ington, W. B. Snider, Paisley, Ed Lister, Paulina, Ernest Johnson, Wallowa, and Herman Oliver, John Day, are directors. The loan com- mittee consists of Hoke, Oliver, and Grelle. Minimum of capital loans are for \$7500 while the minimum budget loan is for \$10,000. Such an association will give livestock men of the Northwest a financially sound organization, it is thought, with low operating cost. As prac- tically all available livestock loans are now being carried by the Re- gional Agricultural Credit Corporations it is not expected the new association will do much business until the regional begins to liquidate.

W. L. Teutsch.

Maintaining Forage Production on the Range

(Continued from page 17)

brush range in general owing to the fact that there is such a wide variation between individual ranges. The basic carrying capacity must be determined for each individual range in accordance with its peculiar conditions. These results are significant, however, in that they indicate the general need for more conservative stocking of similar ranges throughout the sagebrush-bunchgrass area. On the whole, the general tendency has been for range operators to stock on the basis of the average or better than average year. The result has been that when one or more dry years came along more livestock were on hand than the range could support on a sustained yield basis and before numbers of livestock were reduced or good years returned, the range suffered a far greater decline in forage production than seasons of average or better growing conditions alone could restore.

Periods of Wet and Dry Years

There is a tendency in the range region, also, for precipitation to occur more or less in cycles or periods of years of above average precipitation followed by a group of years having below average moisture. These "wet" and "dry" periods require careful consideration in proper range utilization to insure an adequate supply of range feed as well as to maintain the productivity of the range.

Figure 2 shows the annual precipitation at Idaho Falls, Idaho, from 1906 to 1932, inclusive. This weather station is fairly representative of a large spring-fall range area in the intermountain region. It is indicated that during the first ten years the mean annual moisture supply was almost three inches above the 27-year average. During the last 17 years, from 1916 to 1932, however, there have been only three years with

above average precipitation while 14 years have been below average, and the average rainfall was 1.73 inches below the long time average, or 4.68 inches below the average during the preceding ten-year period.

Precipitation measurements have been made at Boise, Idaho, since 1873. This record shows that there have been four periods of more or less "wet" years and four periods of more or less "dry" years in the 60-year record. The last "wet" and "dry" periods correspond, roughly, to those in the Idaho Falls record. There does not appear to be any regularity in the recurrence or length of wet and dry periods in any one locality, and a wet or dry period in one locality may not coincide with a similar period in another locality. Neither is there indication in these data that the climate on the whole is changing from wet to dry or dry to wet, the "ups" and "downs" being more or less normal fluctuations in rainfall. The significant point is that they have occurred in the past and in all probability will continue to occur in the future. Obviously, if range livestock production is to be on a sustained basis, the operator must be in a position to meet the critical dry periods. Although it seems safe to predict that dry periods will come and go in the future, no reliable basis has been worked out for predicting when they will occur. To be able to do so would greatly simplify matters. In the absence of such reliable prediction the only safe plan appears to be to operate on a conservative grazing basis. If an effort is made to expand in the wetter than average periods, it should be done only after the range has been brought back to maximum production and is in a position to withstand a little punishment if a bad guess is made on the weather.

In most cases it will probably be found that all of the available slack in wet periods will be needed to repair the bad effects of the dry periods.

Influence of Period of Use and Intensity of Grazing

The period of use and intensity of grazing are found to have a greater influence on maintenance of the range than natural growing condition. This is shown by the results obtained in several of the experimental paddocks at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station. The outcome in two of the paddocks will illustrate the results that have been obtained. Paddock No. 1, which was originally in a slightly run-down condition has been grazed only in the fall since 1923. The forage has been fully utilized in the fall of each year, except in 1930, when an early heavy snowfall interfered. Figure 3 shows the number of sheep-days feed produced in this paddock each year. The ups and downs in forage production, except in 1930, are a direct reflection of the influence of rainfall and other weather conditions. The paddock has held up and in addition has shown some improvement. This is reflected by the larger forage production in the last several years.

Paddock 2, which was rather similar to Paddock 1 in 1923, has been grazed in much the same manner as a tract of open public domain where there is heavy competition for the feed and where no regard is given to the maintenance of forage production. Sheep were turned on as early in the spring as there was enough feed to afford grazing. The feed was fairly closely utilized each year by the time the sheep were taken to the summer range. Any available feed which remained was utilized during the fall season.

The effect of the manner of grazing in Paddock 2 on forage production is shown in Figure 3. There has been a gradual decline, until in the last two years only 35 per cent as much forage was produced as was

produced during the first two years. Paddock 1 on the other hand, produced approximately 15 per cent more feed in the last two years as compared to the first two-year period.

The benefit of the years of heavier rainfall has not been so apparent in Paddock 2 as in Paddock 1. Instead of responding in the better years the gradual decline continued except for the increased production in the exceptionally good years, 1925 and 1932.

It is sometimes contended that a wet year is all that is needed to bring the range back. This contention is not substantiated by the results either in Paddock 2 or in several of the other paddocks at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, which have been given severe treatment. The year 1932 was much above average in precipitation and although there was some increase in forage production in that year, the depleted paddocks failed to respond as they should have done if a "good" year is all that is necessary to bring about recovery.

The absence of a more favorable response in the good years is due to the change in vegetation that has taken place as the result of the intensive grazing. This change in vegetation in Paddock 2 is shown in Figure 4. Seventy per cent of the original grass cover had disappeared from the range by 1930 and weeds had declined to the extent of 80 per cent, but sagebrush and other shrubs had increased 73 per cent. The reduction in grass and weeds afforded the opportunity for the brush to increase. Since the sagebrush and other shrubs on this range have a low feed value for spring and fall grazing, their increase did not contribute materially to forage production. The loss in grasses and weeds reflects the loss in grazing capacity. Since the restoration of grasses and weeds is dependent upon natural reseeding of the range, several years of light grazing will be necessary to build up a range which

is in the present condition of Paddock 2.

As shown in Figure 4, the results in Paddock 1 were just the reverse of those in Paddock 2. Grasses and weeds have increased in Paddock 1,

Another important point brought out by the results in the paddock studies is what might be called the vulnerable part of the grazing year. Paddock 1, although not grazed in the spring, has been heavily grazed

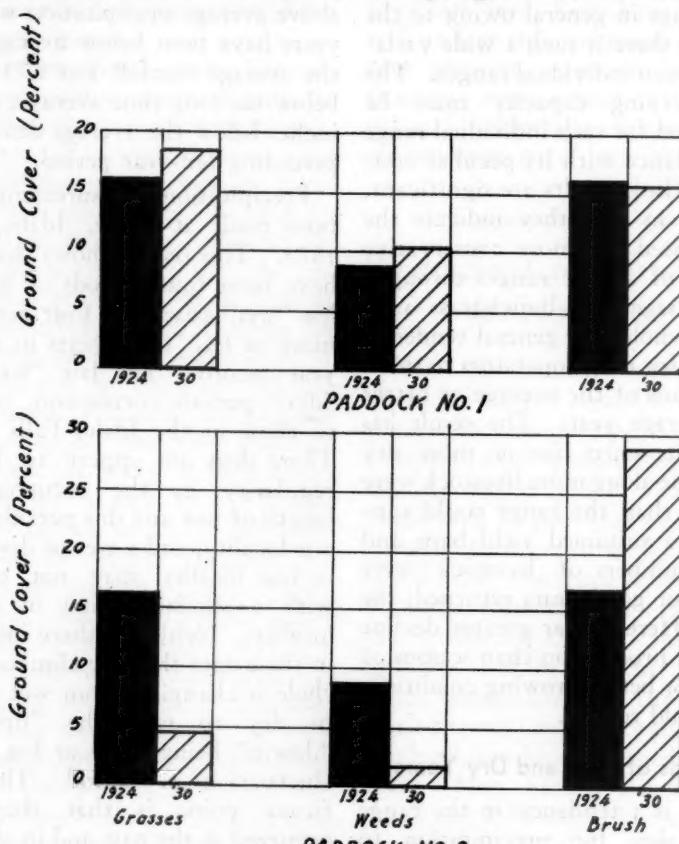


FIG. 4—Effect of Grazing on Vegetation.

whereas, the brush, chiefly sagebrush, has decreased slightly in quantity. Although Paddock 1 was heavily utilized each year, the grazing took place after the range grasses and valuable weeds had reached seed maturity.

It is evident from the results in the paddock studies that unrestricted grazing will cause greater range deterioration than will dry years. It appears safe to conclude, also, that natural reseeding is necessary to rehabilitate run-down range and that grazing may be manipulated so as to improve range under use. Furthermore, grasses, if given the opportunity, can prevent sagebrush from taking the range, and to some extent will crowd it out.

in the fall. Under this system the range has improved. The fairly heavy use during the spring grazing season in Paddock 2 and several of the other paddocks, has proved very injurious to forage production. The grazing in Paddock 2 was coincident with the main part of the growing season for the vegetation and the close cropping of the vegetation during this period has proved to be very detrimental to the vegetation. Paddock 7, on the other hand, which has been grazed moderately to lightly in the spring after grasses have reached a height of six inches and then quite fully in the fall, although not improving, has held up in forage production. This suggests the necessity for the greatest care of the

range during the spring season. Obviously grazing cannot be delayed every year until fall as has been done experimentally in Paddock 1. The desirable practice is to be able to turn the stock on the range as early as there is sufficient feed to support the animals in the spring, but unless proper care is exercised during the plant growing season the range will decline. Experiments in grazing under carefully regulated rotation systems are now being conducted in several paddocks to determine if grazing use heavier than that obtained on the main Sheep Station range is possible and still maintain the good condition of the range and allow the rundown areas to improve.

The feasibility of application of the conclusions from the results in the experimental paddocks is shown on the main range at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station. Stocking on this range is on a conservative basis. Some consideration has been given also to grazing during the vulnerable spring period. Although sheep are turned on shortly after the forage has made a growth of a couple of inches, which may be a little too early, the plan of grazing has been to swing over the range in one direction one year and in the opposite direction the next year so that the range grazed early in the spring of one year would be grazed late in the spring of the next year. Under this system of grazing the range has improved upwards of 15 to 20 per cent in ten years and in no year has there been a shortage of feed during the grazing seasons.

Although the results in these studies have been obtained on typical spring-fall range, the conclusions have general application to other types of range where bunchgrass and weeds are the principal forage plants. The wide fluctuations in climate from year to year and between periods of years suggest the necessity of conservative grazing to maintain forage production. Too intensive grazing year after year, especially during the season the vegetation is growing, will cause a far

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100	3.25	3.50	100	4.25	4.50
200	5.25	6.00	200	7.25	8.00
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heavier decline in forage production than deficient rainfall alone. Too intensive grazing coupled with intermittent dry years will cause a very rapid decline in forage production. Regulated grazing that will afford opportunity for the better grasses and weeds to reseed is essential to rehabilitate rundown range. Although wet years will increase forage production to some extent, they are inadequate to rehabilitate the range without regulation of grazing. Conservative grazing will, in the long run, afford a higher sustained grazing capacity and therefore contribute to stability in livestock production.

Among the factors which have contributed to overcrowding of the range on both privately owned and public lands is the tendency to increase livestock production in periods of favorable prices for meat and wool. Some of the established operators thinking better prices afford an opportunity to derive more profit from their herds increase the number of their breeding stock. Also, new operators thinking they see an opportunity to share in the profits, enter into range livestock production. Frequently, when prices drop, it is impossible to liquidate quickly and the excessive numbers of livestock are carried over for several years. The consequences of this overcrowding of the range are a decline in forage production and often much or all of the anticipated profit is used up by the additional cost for range and feeding, the reduced lamb and calf crops, heavier death losses and other increases in cost of operation which are incident to the decline in forage production on the range.

One of the best reasons in favor of control of the open public domain is that a sound system of control would stabilize range livestock production. The open public domain as now situated invites the opportunity for undue expansion, especially by new operators, in times of favorable prices. Control with limitation of use to the sustained graz-

ing capacity of the range would be a distinct step toward stabilization of livestock production. It would also simplify the application of more conservative grazing by the owners on privately owned lands. In general, it appears that if range livestock production on all range lands was to be stabilized on the basis of the conservative grazing capacity of the range, there would be less expansion in production in periods of good prices, less repercussion when prices decline, forage production would more nearly be maintained and the range livestock industry as a whole would be on a more nearly sustained basis.

Good Lambing Conditions in Oregon

FROM Curry County in southwestern Oregon where sheep and lambs graze on grassy slopes that face the Pacific Ocean to the high altitude valleys of Wallowa County in the northeastern corner of the state lambing conditions in Oregon have been the best in many years.

This is in marked contrast to conditions which prevailed a year ago after one of the most severe winter freezes in history which destroyed most of the forage crops in the state and set back spring grass later than it had been in years. In western Oregon one veteran wool grower declared this was the finest lambing season he had experienced in 40 years. Feed came on more rapidly than the ewes could eat it on many farms and lambs are bigger and stronger with more of them than ordinary.

So far as western Oregon is concerned, the late, cold spring a year ago with short feed caused many farm flock owners to breed their ewes to lamb a little later than is the custom. Excellent condition of ewes, an adequate milk supply, plenty of feed, appears to be more than making up for this delay, however.

Wm. L. Teutsch.

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 14)

than its damage. The drouth persists over the southern half of the state. There have been no reports of unsatisfactory conditions among the major livestock sections, excepting a slow response to the dry condition of the range.

NEVADA

Exceptionally warm weather prevailed everywhere with occasional scattered showers during the last week or ten days, the showers being of much benefit. However, the rain was below normal, and as the country has dried out badly, rains are much needed everywhere. Lambing and shearing continued with little interruption as a rule. Ranges on the whole are slowly deteriorating, but livestock are still looking pretty well.

Elko

Weather has been ideal and feed is excellent (April 27). The feed, in fact, is better than average and storms the last few days have been very beneficial. Forage on the summer ranges will be good.

Lambing has not started yet.

The highest price paid so far for 1934 wool has been 24½ cents, with a discount of one per cent for tags. Advances on consigned wool range from 14 to 18 cents. We have been paying 11 cents to blade shearers.

While some reductions have been made in the rates for leasing railroad and privately owned grazing lands, the charge for the state lands remains the same as two years ago.

Some control of the public range is necessary to save growers the costs of constant range litigation.

At the present time coyotes are more troublesome than they have been for some years, due, in my opinion, to the fact that there are no rabbits left in the country for them.

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UTAH

One of the warmest, earliest Aprils of record is also one of the driest, though crops and pasturage have thus far suffered only slightly from the drouth conditions. Livestock, however, average only fair, and are making slow or normal gains. The weather has been excellent for lambing and shearing operations. Locally in the south and east rain would be an immediate help to the better drained pastures. Generally the season is a month ahead of normal, as shown by plant growth and farming operations.

Fairview

We have good spring feed and fair prospects for good summer ranges.

I haven't heard of any wool sales around here yet; I ship mine to the National. We paid machine shearers 11 cents with board.

The rates for leases on state grazing lands are about 30 per cent less than they were two years ago, and those on land owned by individuals are also greatly reduced. We think the public domain should be handled by the U. S. Government.

The greatly increased trouble with coyotes is due, in my judgment, to the fact that so many of the government trappers have been laid off.

Swen O. Nielson.

COLORADO

Abnormally warm weather with insufficient moisture has produced a backward range, and a more or less general need for rain. On May 2 Grand Junction had a nice rain, but most of the state is still rather dry. Alfalfa is fair on the eastern slope, and good west of the Divide. Livestock are mostly in good condition. Lambing is at its peak, and shearing is under way in the south. The higher ranges on the western slope are developing favorably, but will soon need moisture.

Montrose

Weather conditions during April were good, and while feed is good, we are badly in need of rain. Unless

we get some good rains, summer range forage will be very poor, as it is about 50 per cent below normal now (April 29).

Twenty-five cents has been paid recently for 1934 wool, with a one per cent discount for tags. Advances are being made on consigned wools at 17 cents.

The rate for shearing is 10 cents with board, shearers using 5-W combs. Blade men get 9 cents.

I think about 10 per cent more lambs have been saved this year, per hundred ewes, than was the case last season.

Coyotes are more troublesome than ever before. It seems to me that the Biological Survey has a lot of officers and very few trappers.

I think it would be better to have the supervision of the public domain placed in the hands of the Forest Service, because we do not want to have to fight two or three different bureaus.

Frank Meaker.

NEW MEXICO

Drouthy weather has prevailed, more especially over much of the southern and eastern portions. Livestock average in fair condition, though some cattle have been shipped from the northeastern portion to Kansas for feed and pasture. Livestock are poor in the southwestern portion, ranges and water supplies being scanty. Sheep have been shorn in places over the southern portion. Comparatively little planting has been done in the dry farming districts, because of the dry weather.

Aztec

It is very dry here (April 30) and feed is getting short and will not last long unless we get moisture. This is also true of the summer range.

General lambing will not start until May 15.

No sales of wool have been made yet and no shipments on consignment. We have been paying machine shearers 10 cents per head with board; blade men are getting 7 cents without board.

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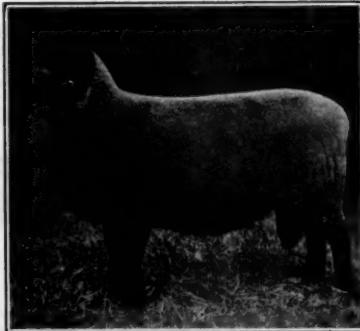
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There has been no difference in
the amount of trouble with the
coyotes on the winter range, but
they are increasing on the summer
range.

No change has been made in rates
for state grazing lands. The regular
charge is 3 cents an acre, and
lands owned privately can be leased
generally at the same price.

J. A. Pierce.

ARIZONA

The days have been hot every-
where and the nights cold and frosty
over the northern plateau country,
with less than the usual amount of
moisture generally. Some sheep
bands are moving northward toward
summer pastures, where because of
more rain, pasturage is improving
satisfactorily in many parts. Live-
stock are mostly in fair condition
despite the prevailing dry weather
and low water supplies, and those
destined to forage in the higher
country have a fairly good prospect.

Thatcher

Prospects for feed on the spring
range are bad, as we have had no
rain for some time.

Our lamb crop was good this
year; we figured it at around 100
per cent. We did not, however, have
as many ewes lambing as a year ago,
about 30 per cent short. The winter
death loss was around 20 per cent.

Some sales of wool have been made
at 25 to 30 cents and consignment
advances have been 15 cents. Shear-
ing rates ranged from 8 to 10 cents
with board.

E. L. Moody.

Holbrook

Had a nice storm March 16, which
put out stock water in some sections
and helped spring grass a great deal.
Stock water is short in most places,
however, (April 29). The spring
range has been excellent, but as there
was very little snow in the moun-
tains last winter, feed on the moun-
tain ranges will probably get pretty
dry before the summer rains.

Coyotes are getting worse rapidly.

I think sheepmen around here
would like to have the public domain
ceded to the state.

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Flagstaff

We have had some rains that filled some of the water holes, but it is still pretty dry in this locality generally, with the exception of right around Flagstaff where the feed now is better than it has been for years at this season. Summer range conditions look favorable now (April 28) but much will depend on our summer rains.

I think the number of lambs per hundred ewes saved this year is from 10 to 15 per cent less than it was in 1933.

Most of the wool in this district is going to the National; have not heard of any sales. Nine cents per head, shearers boarding themselves, was the rate paid to shearers this season.

Right now coyotes are not bothering, but lambing is just starting and that is the time when they are most troublesome.

Sentiment here favors turning the public domain to the states. Rates for leasing state grazing lands have been reduced about one half.

Herbert Babbitt.

Wickenburg

Spring weather and feed conditions have been bad; lack of rain being the principal factor.

There was a heavy death loss in ewes this winter, and the lambs saved in proportion to the ewes lambing will be fewer in number than those of last year.

There have been but few sales of wool, but 32 cents a pound has been paid. Most of the clip is being handled on consignment, with an advance of 20 cents. Ten cents without board has been the prevailing rate for shearing here.

State control of the public domain is favored in this locality.

On account of the drouth, sheepmen's expenses are much higher than they were. Moritz Lake Sheep Co.

WESTERN TEXAS

The drouth has grown steadily more severe over most of this section, temperatures generally being moderately high during the month. Precipitation in the panhandle was less

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than half the normal. Cattle are mostly in rather good condition yet, but rain is badly needed to bring on the range forage generally. Winter wheat is poor in places.

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The Omaha Market

After moping along the first two weeks of April, the fat lamb market came to life with a vengeance in the closing fortnight of the month. Fed woolskins, stimulated by broad demand both from packers and order buyers attained a season's high of \$10.25, a price which has not been exceeded here (except for springers) since August 22, 1930, and equaled only on a single day in June, 1931. Final prices for the month were \$1.00 to \$1.50 higher than at the end of March, with shorn lambs showing the biggest gains. The final week of the month saw the advance in full swing, gains of 90 cents to \$1.50 being scored in six days. There was a let down on the 30th, however, modified to some extent by broad shipper demand. Order buyers took a good portion of the available supply of woolskins at the close at \$9.75 to \$10.10. Packers, who were in bearish mood, stopped at \$9.60.

Shorn lambs forged steadily up the price ladder, and the spread between wooled and clipped kinds was sharply narrowed. Supplies of shorn lambs were liberal toward the month end as the weather grew warmer. A season's high of \$8.90 was established, paid by shippers. Packers, after reaching \$8.70, were back to an \$8.25@8.45 level at the close. Early in May, however, shippers sold freely at \$8.90 and a few reached \$9.00.

Limited supplies and broad demand were prime factors in the strength in the market. Evidence of the demand was given on a Monday at mid-month, when a small supply was monopolized by shippers and packers scoured the countryside in an effort to secure killing stock from nearby feedlots.

Feeding areas in the Scotts Bluff and Colorado territories were rapidly nearing depletion, a tabulation on the 21st of the month showing only about 180,000 lambs remaining, compared with 235,000 last year and 320,000 two years ago. H. F. Lee

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